FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1986

Egypt

A "deviationist minority" has carried out acts of violence, chaos, arson, and destruction which are a "treacherous blow" to progress, President Husni Mubarak told the Egyptian people in a statement broadcast by Cairo radio and television. He confirmed that the riots were not confined to Cairo, noting acts of sabotage in Asyut, Suhaj, and 'Isma'iliyah, and he also revealed that Turah Prison was broken into and prisoners were released. However, the Armed Forces have dealt with the situation, he added, and the authorities have begun interrogating the "large number" of leaders and instigators of the riots who have been arrested. On the origin of the unrest, Mubarak accused "saboteurs" of exploiting "tendentious and baseless rumors" about a 1-year extension of service for conscripts in the Central Security Forces, and he said this had incited conscripts in Al-Jizah and other areas to take to the streets, attacking hotels and other property and killing or wounding a number of security guards.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif subsequently stated in a Cairo Radio interview that the situation was "stable" following the imposition of the curfew, and he said the public had cooperated with the army and police in securing the arrest of rioters in various areas of Cairo 26 February. The curfew will be lifted for 3 hours 27 February to enable citizens to obtain supplies, the radio announced, and the authorities have taken measures to ensure the continued production and distribution of foodstuffs. Official sources cited by MENA stated that the authorities have recaptured a number of criminals who escaped from Turah Prison and that there was no loss of life among foreigners in the areas affected by rioting. Cairo police sources quoted by Jerusalem radio said 15 people were killed and over 300 were wounded in the disturbances. AFP reported gunfire in central Cairo, Al-Ma'adi, and Hulwan 26 February.

As for the opposition parties, MENA reported statements condemning the riots by leaders of the Wafd, Socialist Liberal, Socialist Labor, and 'Ummah parties as well as the National Progressive Unionist Grouping. The agency said President Mubarak would meet with party leaders 27 February to review the current situation, noting *AL-AHRAM*'s prediction that Mubarak would give "some blatant examples that confirm the drawbacks of partisan policy."

In Israel, Jerusalem radio said Israeli officials think President Mubarak will overcome the elements causing instability in Egypt but that the riots will slow down the process of improvement in relations. Meanwhile, Damascus television contended that Israel is "gravely concerned" about the "armed uprising" in Egypt, adding that "the Zionist enemy government is expected to propose military support" to assist Mubarak's regime.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces annihilated "hundreds" of enemy troops and destroyed or captured 20 Iraqi tanks in a further advance northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Tehran radio announced early 27 February. In related reports, IRNA said the Iranians captured 16 more villages, stating that Iran has thus far "liberated" 250 sq km of Iraqi territory in its offensive in the north. The agency had earlier mentioned Iraqi losses of 1,500 killed or wounded and 135 captured. Another IRNA report pointed to the Iraqi media's "meaningful silence" about Iran's offensive in the north, saying this shows that the psychological blow of the operation has been as great as its military effect. However, an Iraqi military source acknowledged the Iranian offensive in a statement carried by INA 27 February, claiming that Iraqi troops are in complete control of the situation in the north.

As for the fighting round Al-Faw, INA cited an Iraqi commander's statement that the Iranians were retreating. In the Gulf, Iraqi planes raided Khark Island and hit a large maritime target 26 February, while the Iraqi Navy subsequently hit three more maritime targets, according to Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. One target of the Iraqi attacks was a large Nigerian oil tanker, the radio noted, citing merchant shipping sources.

Meanwhile, the commander of Iraq's coastal defenses announced that Iraq has expanded its "exclusion" zone in the Gulf, extending the diameter of the line around Khark Island by 30 km to reach the Kuwaiti coast, Radio Monte Carlo reported. For Iran's part, a military spokesman cited by IRNA called on Kuwait to correct the "contradictions" in its policy toward Iran, while Tehran radio noted the Iranian prime minister's warning that Iran "cannot allow some countries to sell oil on behalf of our enemy and calmly transport the oil in the Persian Gulf."

PLO

The PLO has not shelved the accord with Jordan and still considers it valid, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced during a news conference reported by Ankara radio at the end of his visit to Turkey. 'Arafat also said the PLO is ready to resume talks with King Husayn, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Nevertheless, a Palestinian source cited by the East Jerusalem paper *AL-FAJR* disclosed earlier that 'Arafat has "summarily dismissed" PLO officers in Jordan who expressed public support for King Husayn's 19 February speech, and Baghdad Voice of PLO radio likewise carried statements from the West Bank condemning Husayn and those who have supported his speech.

Israel

Palestinian representatives to an international conference must be acceptable to Israel, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stressed in remarks reported by IDF radio, and he added that the U.S conditions for PLO participation in such a conference were issued on behalf of the Americans, not Israel, which still has "the right of veto." Nevertheless, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has "hinted" that Israel is willing to negotiate with West Bank Palestinians associated with the PLO, *THE JERUSALEM POST* disclosed, noting that Rabin told 30 prominent West Bank figures in a 25 February meeting that a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to peace talks could include "anyone" from the West Bank or Gaza Strip "without qualification." He reaffirmed, however, that representatives from the Palestinian diaspora can only participate if they do not belong to the PLO.

Lebanon

An IDF corporal was killed and four other Israeli soldiers were wounded when their patrol clashed with a "terrorist" squad in Israel's security strip the night of 26 February, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio.

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Jordan Reported To Seek PLO Leadership Change

LD261641 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (KUNA) — A high-ranking Arab diplomat source today quoted the Marwan al-Qasim chief of the Jordanian royal Court, as having told Egyptian president Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials he met with during his recent visit to cairo that "Jordan will continue to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people but will try to change its current leadership."

The Arab diplomatic source told KUNA that Al-Qasim told the Egyptian authorities that Jordan "continues to recognize the PLO'S right to participate in an international conference to solve the middle east question".

King Husayn said last week that he has decided to terminate all political coordination with the plo under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat.

Egypt is mediating at present with a view to the resumption of dialogue between the Jordanian Government and the PLO.

'Arafat Discusses U.S. Pressure, Husayn Speech, More

'Dialogue' With Cairo Newspaper

PM210929 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 19 Feb 86 p 19

["Dialogue" with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, attended on the Palestinian side by Mahmud 'Abbas, Hani al-Hasan, Dr Nabil Sha'th, Muhammad Subayh, Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim, Hakam Bal'awi, 'Imad Shaqqur, Zuhdi al-Qudrah, and Khalid Salam; and on the Egyptian side by political party representatives Dr Mahummad 'Abdallah, of the NDP, Dr Wahid Ra'fat, of the Al-Wafd Party, Dr Hilmi Murad, of the Socialist Labor Party, and Dr Muhammad Akhmad Khalafallah and Dr Samir Fayyad, of the NPUG Party, and by *AL-AHRAM* writers Salamah Ahmad Salmah, Al-Sayyid Yasin, Ihsan Bakr, and Husayn Sha'lan and Lutfi al-Khuli as moderator of the dialogue — in *AL-AHRAM*'s office in Cairo on 18 February]

[Excerpts] In a frank dialogue between struggler Yasir 'Arafat and some prominent Palestinian leaders with representatives of Egyptian political parties and some political movements, current issues relating to the Palestine problem were discussed freely, including the issue of Resolution 242 at a time when the PLO is facing various pressures. Thorought the dialogue 'Arafat stressed that political action is no substitute for armed struggle and that armed struggle is no substitute for political action. Both are closely linked and interact with one another.

Today we begin publishing this dialogue to which a number of other Egyptian party leaders were invited but which, for reasons of their own, were unable to attend though they sent delegates to represent them.

Lufti al-Khuli: *AL-AHARAM* is pleased and honored to welcome the leader of the Palestinian revolution, brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. When we talk about the Palestinian revolution at present we mean the most important, effective, and dynamic faction of the national liberation movement, despite the U.S.-Israeli blockade on one side and the attitude of the Arabs of various inclinations on the other.

The "National Dialogue" feature is pleased to arrange this meeting between brother Abu 'Ammar and his companions, members of the Palestinian leadership, and leaders and representatives of the parties that are involved in the Egyptian democratic experiment, beginning with the ruling NDP down to political movements that have not yet formed parties. This is in addition to the presence of some political figures and thinkers who are interested in Palestinian action and national action. My colleague Salamah Ahmad Salamah, the managing editor, and I wish to thank those who have accepted the invitation and I hope you will accept the apology of those who were unable to attend because of the short notice given for this meeting which was less than 24 hours.

I think it would be particularly useful at this juncture, in the presence of the main Palestinian leadership, to throw some light on the facts of the Palestine problem today without going back to its historical background which we all know. What is important is that today we should get acquainted with the pressures that are being brought to bear on the PLO, the Palestinian people, and the revolution; how the PLO is exercising its role in the political struggle and armed struggle in the midst of this deterorating Arab situation which Abu 'Ammar calls "the bad Arab times;" and how this role is being played in the current circumstances of relations in the international situation, as well as in light of the current Israeli situation with both its strong points and weak points.

First, we invite Yasir 'Arafat to make an introductory review to start the discussion.

Yasir 'Arafat: It is with feelings of pride and pleasure that I am attending this fraternal meeting with brothers some of whom — or rather I should say all of whom — stood side by side with the Palestinian revolution in criticial times. Some of them came to us under the hail of bullets and shells during the most difficult moments of the siege of Beirut or the siege of Tripoli. They also stood by us in our difficult political battles which we are fighting in more than one sphere and one front. Therefore, as your brothers in this revolution and as we stand together on the frontline, we wish to epxress our heartfelt thanks to these brotherly and true revolutionary stands which you have always taken with us.

The Palestinian revolution is now facing a U.S. political and diplomatic onslaught which essentially that the PLO recognize Resolution 242. The U.S. officials have used some ridiculous expressions, but this reflects the seriousness of their attitude toward us and toward the entire Arab cause. They say that the PLO's recognition of Resolution 242 is the only passport to the international conference. Unfortunately, the pressures that are being put on the PLO are not only American. They have chased us with planes as far as Tunis. In addition to Israeli pressures, there are also Arabs pressures. All these pressure groups are directing a frenzied media campaign against us.

As you know, some 44 U.S. senators have signed a petition demanding that I be brought to trial; that is, I should be tried before American courts. Of course, this is part of the fierce campaign. Even the French stand which we used to consider friendly has differed. Roland Dumas recently visited Israel where he departed from the traditional French stand which always called for the "Palestinian people's rights and the PLO's representation of the people."

Roland Dumas said that the PLO does not represent all the Palestinian people. He, along with Murphy and other people is participating in talks with Palestinians in the West Bank and is calling on them to find a new leadership to negotiate on behalf of the people of the West Bank and Gaza. They say that Israelis willing to negotiate with a new leadership.

You all know that the French stand has always been an enlightened stand. But we now see that France has played the role of "godfather" in bringing about the recognition of Israel by certain states or the resumption of relations between Israel and certain Frican states such as Zaire and the Ivory Coast. We conclude from this that the French stand has changed and, of course, this change is due to the poor Arab situation.

Today we see what is happening in the Gulf war is due to the intransigent stand by Iran which has rejected all attempts to bring about peace made by the Islamic committees, the non-aligned committees, and the international committees. We saw some Arabs at the beginning of the Iranian offenisve telephone Tehran in order to congratulate it on the offensive. This once again shows us the weakness of the Arab stand even in the face of an attack to occupy Arab lands. I do not think that Islam has anything to do with this. Instead of trying to reconcile two Islamic sides that are fighting one another and of supporting the side that is committing a wrong against the other side, we allow the blood-letting to go on for 6 years, while all the resources of the Arab nation, Iran, the Gulf, and Iraq are being wasted. By any standard this is a disaster.

Not only that. There is also what is happening in Lebanon. At the beginning it was alleged that the Palestinian revolution was repsonsible for the situation there. What happened after the major part of the Palestinian revolution left Lebanon? A conspiracy of the ugliest form emerged. It is a sectarian partitioning that has pitted Christian against Christian and Muslim against Muslim with the aim of setting up mini-states and cantons.

On the other hand, we find that the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron has become a Jewish synagogue and yet there is no appropriate Arab reaction. If we were to say that there are no Arab feelings, do we not have the right to ask about Islamic feelings? What about the Al-Aqsa Mosque? The first time the Israelis set fire to it, the second time they bombed it, and the third time they carried out excavations under it. There is a decision to destroy it and build Solomon's Temple in its place. A plan of Solomon's Temple is being openly circulated. Members of the Israeli Knesset openly violate the place under police and Army protection. The Security Council was convened but the United States used its veto and Britain and France abstained. In the meantime, the whole Islamic nation is not making a move despite the fact that the number of dead from this nation in the fighting between Iran and Iraq in the past 7 days has been no less than 20,000.

What kind of nonsense is this to say that this war is being fought in order to reach Jerusalem? Which Jerusalem? Jerusalem is occupied. This shows us the number of the fronts on which we have to act, to play our role, and to contribute to solving problems.

However, now we are faced with the Americans saying: The PLO is required to recognize Resolutions 242 and 338 in a clear-cut manner that is "haf" [bread without butter] in the Egyptian expression. We said we accept Resolution 242 only on the basis of self-determination which President Mubarak referred to in Strasbourg. They said: No.

This of course, is happening after they have failed to wipe out the PLO military when Three-quarters of the Israeli Army attacked us for 88 days. They were surprised to see us emerging as winners from this war and that the total Israeli losses were greater than its losses in all previous Arab-Israeli wars. But some Arbs tried to finish the job Israel started and so they created dissension among us which was followed by the double siege of Tripoli.

But perhaps you heard about a month ago that katyusha rockets are landing on northern Palestine which is occupied by the Zionist enemy. It is true that the number of rockets fired was 100 or 200, but what I mean to say to the world, to the Israelis, to the Arabs, to the Americans, and to the Soviets is that after a halt of 3 and 1/2 years Palestinian rockets are once again hitting Israeli military settlements. Which means that the "peace for Galilee" operation which was intended to "stop Palestinian fedayeen operations so that the inhabitants of the Galilee settlements can live in security" has not achieved its objectives. In 1985 Palestinian rockets were once again in action. We have accomplished this military achievement both in Lebanon and in the occupied territories.

Willing To Resume Dialogue

PM211555 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Feb 86 p 1

[*Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* London bureau report: "First Palestinian Reaction: 'Arafat Tells *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*: Husayn's Speech Surprised U.S.; Door to Dialogue Open"]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that King Husayn's speech was a surprise to the Palestinian leadership, but he added that all possibilities are "wide open." He reaffirmed the consistent Palestinian stands, the importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, and his readiness to resume dialogue in the interest of all concerned. This statement came in a telephone conversation with Mr 'Arafat who is currntly in Baghdad. This was the first Palestinian reaction to King Husayn's speech.

Meanwhile, *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* has learned that an ad hoc committee is drafting a reply to the speech and a meeting of the Palestinian leadership is expected to be convened within hours and before the statement is issued. It is understood that the reply will be calm and positive and will leave the door open to the resumption of the dialogue.

In his statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* 'Arafat said: We are still studying the matter as it was a surprise to us, particularly since President Husni Mubarak had sent his special envoy Dr Usamah al-Baz to Amman for the second time. I had also agreed with the Egyptian president to send Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser, to Amman. But on arriving there, he found that the speech had already been distributed to the press. (Al-Hasan returned to Baghdad from Amman yesterday in order to report on the situation to 'Arafat)

'Arafat said that all the doors and possibilities are wide open to discuss the matter and study the situation. He said: there are facts that we will include in the reply when we finish preparing it. The reply might be delayed for some time because of our preoccupation along with the rest of the Arab world with the battle of destiny currently taking place on the eastern approaches, by which I mean the Gulf war.

Asked about the fate of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, 'Arafat said: "This is up to how King Husayn views the matter and his basic principles. For our part, we have openly declared our adherence to the ties of destiny that link the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples."

'Arafat declined to elaborate on the reasons for the disagreement, but said that "Washington submitted a particular formula calling for halting armed struggle. I asked His Majesty King Husayn: Are you asking me to do so? No, no, never, he emphatically answered. I believe that this matter is up to the Palestinian people and must be decided at an Arab summit. We have been and are still keeping the brother Arab leaders informed of what is hap-pening... I believe that the present situation calls for convening an Arab summit. We have been and are still supporting convening it..."

Speaking about the situation on the Iraq-Iran front, he said that the situation is reassuring. The Iraqi brothers have been able to contain the force that landed in Al-Faw and have started tightening the ring around the Iranians on all the axes. I say on behalf of the Palestinian people that the PLO and the people are against this Iranian aggression against Iraqi Arab territory. On the basis of this principle we stand alongside the Iraqi Army and people in defending their land. In the meantime, I call for convening a meeting of the Islamic Good Offices Committee at the earliest possible date in order to tackle this grave situation resulting from this battle which affects not only Iraq but also the security of the Gulf and the Arab nation.

Dismisses Pro-Jordan PLO Members

TA251146 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has dismissed PLO men in Jordan who publicly expressed their support for King Husayn's announcement on the end of policy coordination between Jordan and the PLO. This was reported by sources in East Jerusalem to a Voice of Israel reporter.

In Janin, Mayor Muhammad Lahluh [as heard], has decided to assemble a delegation to go to Jordan as an expression of support for King Husayn.

In the administered territories, institutions which support the PLO have published an opinion poll which shows a majority against this delegation. The opinion poll claims that the delegation has no right to speak in the name of residents of the territories.

PLO's Qaddumi Interviewed on Husayn Speech

GF221343 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
21 Feb 86 p 14

[Report on interview with Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, by unidentified *AL-BAYAN* correspondent, conducted by telephone with him from his office in Tunis — date not given]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi said: King Husayn's speech was a narration of historical events and facts for which we have a different interpretation and understanding. We will respond to the speech in an expanded statement after the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee.

He added: The PLO has always been desirous of joint Arab action and continues to be so. It called for the convening of an Arab summit in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli war in Lebanon in 1982 to achieve a unanimous Arab response to U.S. President Reagan's plan which we rejected. The Arab summit adopted the Arab peace plan and formed a seven-member committee which visited the permanent member countries of the UN Security Council.

He continued: Regrettably, the absence from the meetings of the committee of some of the members directly concerned paralyzed its effectiveness and halted its action at a certain point.

Abu al-Lutf referred to the PNC resolution adopted by its 16th session in Algeria to hold a dialogue with Jordan and which defined the Palestinian view of the relationship with Jordan and affirmed that this relationship must be based on a confederation following the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Abu al-Lutf said: We adhered to this resolution. Negotiations were held with Jordanian officials in 1983. They failed, however, because of the Jordanian view of the confederation a tactic, not a strategy, and because Jordan insisted on mentioning the Reagan plan, which we rejected then and still do.

Abu al-Lutf added: It is true that we were forced to leave Lebanon under well-known circumstances and following a heroic stand that lasted for 3 months. We could hardly find a place in the Arab land. Fraternal Tunisia offered us a place. It is true that we were welcomed to hold our 17th pnc in Amman in 1984 when

King Husayn presented his well-known initiative based on exchanging land for peace.

He added: We continued the dialogue with Jordan — I then chaired the Palestinian side — based on a number of principles committed to the right to establish an independent Palestinian state, self-determination, and PLO participation on an equal footing with all the concerned parties. However, these principles formed an obstacle in the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

He added: Despite this, we formulated a joint working paper which both sides agreed upon. This happened after many months of shuttle trips by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, who used to tour the Arab region to market ideas which were completely removed from the basic rights of the Palestinian people. We would reject them of course.

Abu al-Lutf said: The aim of the United States was to compel us to accept that the Palestinian people do not have a cause. It was as if the U.S. envoy wanted to liquidate the Palestinian cause by our hands and those of Jordan.

He added: The U.S. envoy used to present various settlement plans. At one time he would propose a plan for a meeting with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian working group, or a plan for participation by Palestinians from outside the PLO in the peace efforts. Then he would demand recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. What is strange is that the U.S. representative at the UN General Assembly admitted in 1978 that Resolution 242 does not deal with the political aspects of the Palestinian cause.

He added: Numerous dialogues were held with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and former Egyptian Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi on an amended version of the resolution so that we might accept it. The United States, however, used to retract whenever we accepted something or showed noticeable flexibility.

He continued: Under these circumstances we are astonished how it is possible for an Arab party to invert the picture and say that the right of Palestinian self-determination is an internal Arab affair which we must not demand that the United States to recognize.

He added: I sense Arab guardianship in such talk as if the Arab resolution in 1974 that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people does not exist.

Abu al-Lutf said: I can glimpse from the recent U.S. statements that Washington subordinates the right to self-determination to negotiation between the concerned parties and insists on PLO participation within a Jordanian delegation. This means that the national character of the Palestinian people does not exist. Washington also insists that the pre-1967 borders cannot be touched, say that it is possible to amend them slightly in Israel's favor.

He remarked: During the recent talks we submitted several formulas which reflected flexibility and a desire to achieve an acceptable formula for searching for a just settlement. All these formulas, however, were rejected. There was insistence on nonrecognition of the PLO and the right to self-determination for the whole Palestinian people, and an insistence on considering Resolution 242 the basis for any future negotiations. Even the international conference was and continues to be rejected. What appears to be required is an international umbrella in which the friendly USSR does not participate.

He added: The most important achievement of the revolution has been the building of the independent national Palestinian character and the world's recognition of this character. Abu al-Lutf asked: How do you expect us to give up this historic achievement?

He added: The latest talks in Amman revolved around demands which were outside the joint working paper, namely recognition of Resolution 242, which we rejected at the beginning of the dialogue when we also demanded effective powers be given to an international peace conference — and the Jordanian side accepted that — not merely powers of mediation and conciliation.

He said that an international conference must have the responsibility for arbitration and final resolution of all the submitted issues.

In response to the Jordanian statement, he said: We exercised credibility and commitment since the first day of the dialogue with Jordan, insisting not to bypass what was agreed on in the Fes plan, the commitment to joint Arab action, and the clauses of the joint working paper. It was clear that we rejected 242 from the start and said that UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue were the basis for a settlement. Finally we added to these resolutions, Resolutions 242 and 338 by name, but the United States rejected this formula.

He added: The United States refuses to recognize the right to self-determination and the right of the PLO to participate in the peace process and rejects the naming of members of the PNC simply to hold a dialogue with it.

He asked: If we go to the umbrella-conference to which King Husayn referred in his address to the UN General Assembly, or if we are members in a Jordanian delegation without enjoying a recognition of our right to self-determination, while at the same time recognizing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Israel's right to exist, what will we have in return?

Abu al-Lutf added: Does not Jordan know that we have always rejected any dealing with Resolution 242. Why are these pressures exerted on us without cause?

Abu al-Lutf affirmed that the disagreement in fact is not with Jordan, but with the United States and Israel. However, he said, the bias of some Arab parties to the U.S. side cannot make the path to a just solution secure or acceptable.

The Palestinian official reviewed what happened in London when the meeting between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs was cancelled. He denied that there had been an agreement in advance to issue a statement recognizing Israel and renouncing violence.

He said: All that happened was a British retraction from a commitment made by Thatcher to hold a meeting between her foreign secretary and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that included two members from the PLO Executive Committee. Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the delegation, was taken by surprise by this statement.

He continued: The assistant under secretary at the British Foreign Office came and told the delegation that there was no time to waste, as Rajiv Gandhi was in London. He said: If you want to accept this statement and Israel's right to exist and the 1967 borders, we also do not accept these borders and they must be altered. [sentence as published]

Abu al-Lutf added: The British official spoke with an arrogant tone as if he was imposing capitulation conditions on the joint delegation. Yes we rejected this arrogant tone. The truth behind the cancellation of the meeting was that U.S. President Reagan telephoned Margaret Thatcher and asked her to cancel the meeting because of the prevailing circumstances and the hijacking of the Italian ship *Achille Lauro*.

Abu al-Lutf revealed that the circumstances of this situation nearly caused profound disagreements within the PLO had it not been for its enlightened leadership and its masses which had confidence in the leadership and in its ability to surmount all differences and to resolve the crisis with patience and wisdom, while remaining committed to the constants outlined by the PNC in all of its sessions.

Abu al-Lutf asked: What has the United States offered to facilitate the peace process? Has it accepted a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to know the Palestinian viewpoint as a start for the dialogue? Has it agreed to meet with PNC members? Has it accepted recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination despite the fact that it rejects the establishment of an independent Palestinian state? Has it recognized the PLO'S right to participate in the peace process on an equal footing with the other parties? Has it accepted an international conference to be attended by the USSR which, as a country friendly to the Arabs, would amend the balance of power which has leaned toward Israel and the United States as was the case at Camp David?

Abu al-Luft answered: What has the United States accepted so that we might discuss with it what it has accepted?

He added: I mention for history the U.S.-Soviet statement which was issued on 1 October 1977 and which provided for recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. It was followed 48 hours later by a U.S.-Israeli statement signed by Dayan and Vance cancelling everything that Washington had pledged in the joint U.S.-Soviet statement.

He added that President Carter had retracted his announcement that the Palestinian refugees have the right to a homeland.

Abu al-Lutf added: I am surprised that Jordan places itself in the position of an adversary as if the disagreement is with it. He said: If this was the case, there would be no agreement on a joint working paper.

African OPEC Countries Establish New Body

LD260208 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Four African OPEC countries — Nigeria, Gabon, Libya, and Algeria — took action to cope with the oil market and unite their efforts so that inter-African petrochemical cooperation could become a reality.

A first step is the setting up of the African hydrocarbons association. The African hydrocarbons association was created out of the determination of the four producer-exporter countries — Algeria, Gabon, Libya, and Nigeria — to consolidate cooperation in the energy field, and to provide a framework for permanent concerted action with a structure that would ensure coordination. The need for this instrument was strongly felt during the troubled and difficult times we are going through — the worsening of the oil market.

The situation in the oil market was seriously examined by the four oil ministers in Algiers. At the end of their work they expressed their deep concern over the collapse of oil prices and its impact on their respective economies. The four African OPEC countries also called on the organization to carry out concerted and suitable action to restore the stability of the oil market. They stressed that the chaotic state of the market, due to the current prices, does not serve OPEC interests. It does not serve the interests of other Third World crude oil producers either, for they are equally affected by the robbing of their incomes of much needed money for their economic and social development. Within this context, the four oil ministers of Algeria, Libya, Gabon, and Nigeria urgently called on the non-OPEC producers to join the organization with a view to sharing the responsibility for restoring stability to the oil market. This is required now more than ever as it has been established that the current worsening of the oil market is a result of maneuvers and political pressure aimed at robbing the developing oil-producing countries of the power of setting prices for their raw material, and thus harming their sovereignty over their natural resources. The contacts (?for a) concerted action have started between various crude oil producers, but this is not yet action, merely a collective awareness.

In the African sphere the concerted action will take a special dimension. As I said before, henceforth Africa will have a permanent framework, the African hydrocarbons association, which can involve at least a dozen oil-exporting [words indistinct] countries in Africa. Consultations are now under way to secure their accession. The founding members — Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, and Gabon — have adopted the fundamental principles of the association which, it is stressed, does not intend to duplicate or come into conflict with any organization to which its members belong. Its objectives concern only the promotion of inter-African cooperation in the fields of research, exploration and drilling, the petrochemical industry, the exchange of experience in the technological field, mutual technical aid, and, in a general manner, the coordination of African oil policies, particularly the possibility of coordinating marketing policies and thus justly defending their share of the market. Their share, as part of Africa's energy reserve — 11 percent of world production outside of the CEMA, or about 5 million barrels per day — without mentioning its potential, is not to be ignored and must be given adequate power to negotiate.

BAHRAIN

Crown Prince Hails GCC Cooperation

GF261554 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Crown Prince Acting Premier and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Forces Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah hailed cooperation and coordination among GCC states.

During a visit to one of defence forces unit Shaykh Hamad stressed that Bahrains defence force will exert more efforts in order to force this cooperation.

Shaykh Hamad also praised the tangible progress in unit and the great efforts of officials there.

Bahrain's crown prince awarded several long-term service medals.

KUWAIT

Iranian Official Arrives in Kuwait 26 Feb

GF270534 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for political affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Kuwait yesterday from Doha. He was received at the airport by a number of Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials, the charge d'affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait and the Iranian Embassy staff in Kuwait.

Talks between Sheykh ol-Eslam and Kuwaiti senior officials will deal with bilateral relations and the current state of the international oil market.

Earlier the political under secretary at the Foreign Ministry began a tour of the Persian Gulf countries designed to coordinate with these countries to foil the plot of international arrogance to reduce oil prices.

ARAB TIMES: Air, Naval Forces on 'Full Alert'

GF261201 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 25 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Kuwait's Chief of Staff 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim yesterday said all military precautions had been taken in defence of the country and in protection of its borders against any aggression.

Al-Ghanim said Kuwait's land, air and naval forces were on full alert and were fully prepared to safeguard the country under the leadership of HH the amir and HH the crown prince and premier.

No new arms shipments had been ordered as a result of the latest escalation in the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Ghanim said, asserting that Kuwait's existing weaponry was sufficient and efficient.

The chief of staff said that the Air Force helicopter that crashed last week was on a training mission. Investigations are still underway to verify the incident in which two seasoned pilots died.

Al-Ghanim voiced pride in the 16,000 Kuwaiti conscripts "who enriched the advanced technology of the three Army forces."

Meanwhile, Kuwait has protested to Iran over "harassment" of one of its naval vessels by two Iranian helicopters in Kuwaiti territorial waters, the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY said yesterday.

The news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the incident took place on Saturday, east of Kubbar Island.

The spokesman said the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Sunday to receive the protest.

"kuwait strongly denounces the act and hopes it will not be repeated," the spokesman said.

The acting Foreign Ministry under secretary, Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwa' yesterday met the Iranian charge d'affaires, Mohammad Reza Baqiri.

The talks during the meeting concentrated on the developments in the region, the Gulf war, and Arab and international efforts to reach a settlement for the sake of the peoples of the two neighbouring states.

Sources Say Paper on Gulf War To Be Submitted to GCC

GF260817 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0642 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Kuwaiti Government sources have stated that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will submit a working paper to the GCC ministerial conference, which is scheduled to hold a new session next Saturday. The paper concerns the required moves to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The Al-Shariqah-based newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* today quotes these sources as saying that Kuwait has views and proposals which it formulated in light of the reaction of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during the visit by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal to Damascus 6 days ago, which was followed by a second visit by Sa'ud al-Faysal, in addition to the stand of the Iraqi leaders which the Kuwaiti official reviewed during his visit to Baghdad, and also the results of the talks which he held with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi during the latter's recent visit to Kuwait.

The sources quoted the Kuwaiti Government as saying that the GCC countries agree on several issues which are liable to contribute to the success of the current Algerian initiative. Foremost of these issues is to contribute toward extending aid to the two warring countries to rebuild the severe material losses caused to their industrial and commercial installations by the military conflict.

The sources expressed optimism concerning the possibility that an agreement would soon be reached on the war, which has now entered its 6th year. The sources, however, refused to reveal the causes for their optimism.

Paper on Increased Oil Output To Offset Price Drop

GF261202 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 25 Feb 86 p 11

[Text] Kuwait is compensating for the recent sharp fall in oil prices by boosting its output, according to a senior official in the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

The executive assistant for planning 'Abd al-Latif Hamad al-Turah, said that Kuwait was anticipating a 30 percent cut in its oil revenue, but had increased production to 1.2 million barrels a day in an effort to cover this drop.

Al-Turah said that OPEC should be able to regain the initiative in the international oil market by the end of the decade, if the current situation continued.

This was because member states had low production costs and large reserves and also because oil companies in non-OPEC states had begun to rein in their exploration activities.

Al-Turah said Kuwait had been trying to find a fair solution for OPEC states to the present oil market problems, but non-OPEC countries had tried to exploit the OPEC decision to cut production, by boosting their own output.

He said Kuwait could face the deterioration in the oil situation because it had low production costs and the KPC could cope with any development.

PDRY

Chairman Al-'Attas Visits Interior Ministry

GF261431 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, made an inspection visit to the Interior Ministry today. He was welcomed by Brigadier General Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the YSP Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of the interior, and a number of ministry officials.

During the visit, brother Al-'Attas met with the leaderships, officers, and noncommissioned officers of the popular police and with ministry employees. He was briefed on the course of the work at the ministry and on the programs and plans presented for the upcoming phase in order to safeguard security, stability, and public property. He pointed out the importance of the popular police in safeguarding security and stability, in fighting all the negative phenomena which contradict all the regulations and laws laid down and in dealing with anyone, regardless of his position or duty, according to his mistakes.

Brother Al-'Attas praised the role played by the members of the popular police in returning the situation to normal following the events of the futile coupist conspiracy of conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique and in safeguarding security, stability, and public property and in reassuring the citizens.

The chairman affirmed the importance of bolstering and developing relations with the security establishments and the popular organizations, particularly with the organization of the public defense committees.

Brother Al-'Attas also made an inspection visit to the popular police command at the Tariq Camp. The chairman inspected the situation of the command and listened to a detailed explanation on the command's situation following the bloody events witnessed by the camp.

The chairman praised the role played by the popular police in the capital in order to return the security situation to normal and to safeguard security and stability in the capital.

Arab Parliamentary Chairman Returns From Kuwait

GF261924 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Brother 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami, secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, returned to Aden yesterday following a visit lasting several days to Kuwait.

The visit was made upon the invitation of the Kuwaiti National Assembly chairman to participate in the 25th anniversary of the Kuwaiti people's national day and also to participate in the inauguration of the new Kuwaiti National Assembly building.

In a statement to ANA, Brother 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami said that this visit was an excellent opportunity to meet with the Kuwaiti brethren and to participate in their national day celebrations. He pointed out that during this visit he discussed bilateral relations between the Supreme People's Council and the Kuwaiti National Assembly and the means to bolster and develop those relations.

In his statement, he said: We briefed the Kuwaiti brethren and the Arab parliamentarians on the serious dimensions of the bloody conspiracy led by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his treacherous clique and which was designed to break the party's unity and to eliminate its experienced historic leadership, thus serving the reactionary and imperialist forces.

He said: We discussed the tragic results which our people had to face and the material and human losses. We also discussed the high struggle spirit of the masses and the military establishments that foiled the conspiracy and turned conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's dreams into illusions.

They also embodied the ability of our party and people to confront all kinds of plots designed to foil the revolutionary experience in our country.

QATAR

Amir Receives Iranian Foreign Ministry Official

GF261145 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received at Doha Palace at 1100 today Mr Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, political undersecretary of Iran's Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance and oil; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Seyyed Bagher Safa'i, Iranian ambassador in Doha.

Official Departs 26 Feb

GF261943 Doha QNA in Arabic 1935 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Doha, 26 Feb (QNA) — Mr Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary of Iran's Foreign Ministry, left Doha this evening following a 2-day visit to the state of Qatar as part of his tour of the region. He was seen off by Engineer Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mani', deputy minister of industry and agriculture.

Algerian Foreign Minister Conveys Message to Amir

GF261236 Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Doha, 26 Feb (QNA) — Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The message was conveyed by Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi during a meeting with his highness the amir this morning. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Mohamed (Bargham), Algerian ambassador in Doha.

The message deals with consultations on a number of Arab issues of mutual concern and the development of the situation in the region, in addition to the means of further consolidating relations between the two fraternal countries.

Received by Ministers

GF261209 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance and oil met at Doha Palace today with Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who is currently visiting Doha as part of a tour of a number of the region's states. The meeting was attended by Mohamed (Bargham), Algerian ambassador in Doha.

QNA has learned that during this meeting they discussed the good bilateral relations in the field of energy and the latest developments in the international oil market.

Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, met at his office this morning with the Algerian Foreign Minister. During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two countries and discussed a number of issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by Mohamed (Bargham), Algerian ambassador in Doha.

SAUDI ARABIA

Moroccan Minister Arrives in Riyadh

LD212312 Riyadh DPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA) — Moroccan Minister for Administrative Affairs Abderrahim Ben Abdeljalil arrived in Riyadh tonight on a 1-week visit at the invitation of the Public Administration Institute.

During his visit, the Moroccan minister will familiarize himself with the achievements of the Kingdom in the field of administrative development and will hold talks with officials in the Kingdom on strengthening cooperation in the administrative sphere.

UAE

Mauritanian President Arrives for Brief Visit

GF261846 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Mauritanian President Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya arrived this evening in Abu Dhabi from Beijing on a short visit to the UAE en route to his country. He was received by Sa'id al-Darmaki, head of the UAE Protocol Department.

YAR

President, Egypt's Mubarak Discuss Cairo Situation

GF270531 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, last night made a telephone call to his brother Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to inquire about the situation and the course of the events in Egypt, following the incidents which took place there Tuesday in Cairo.

SABA' has learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has reassured the brother leader president. He told him that the situation is under control and that the rebellion has been crushed. The brother leader president, secretary general of the General People's Congress, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed his wishes that God will spare fraternal Egypt every harm.

Leaders React to Police Conscript Riots

Mubarak Speech to Nation

NC261658 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has declared that a deviationist minority has carried out acts of violence, chaos, and arson — acts that are seen as a treacherous blow to the progress of our people, who are struggling for their livelihood and future.

In a statement to the Egyptian people tonight, President Mubarak said that these events have occurred at a time when Egypt is exerting all its efforts to ensure construction in every way. It is seeking to confront the difficult conditions it is experiencing without placing any new burdens on low-income groups, despite the shortage in our basic revenues. The following is the text of President Mubarak's statement:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Brother citizens: At this time, Egypt is exerting all its efforts and mobilizing all its forces for construction in every way, in order to confront the difficult economic conditions we are experiencing without placing new burdens on low-income groups, despite the shortage in our basic revenues. Despite this, a deviationist minority has carried out acts of violence, chaos, arson, and destruction. These actions are a treacherous blow to the progress of our people, who are struggling for their livelihood and future.

During the early hours of yesterday evening, Tuesday, 25 February, tendentious and baseless rumors were spread among the conscripts assigned to the Central Security Forces in Al-Jizah, located where the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria begins. These rumors spoke about a 1-year extension in the conscription period for people assigned to the police force. Certain saboteurs exploited these false rumors to instigate their colleagues in the camp and to incite their feelings.

This caused large groups of these conscripts to emerge onto the road. They committed many acts of violence and destruction. Many cars were destroyed and fires broke out in hotels and tourist facilities located near the aforementioned camp.

The escalating situation and rumors led to the outbreak of riots in security camps nearby. Groups from these camps, armed with weapons and clubs that they possessed for their term of service, carried out acts of sabotage and destruction against public places, tourist facilities, and means of transportation. They killed and wounded some security guards at these institutions.

In the early hours of this morning, some security camps in the governorates of Cairo, Al-Jizah, Al-Qalyubiyah, Asyut, Suhaj, and Ismailia witnessed similar acts of sabotage. Severe damage was caused. Three large tourist hotels were damaged, and a large number of citizens' cars, buses, other vehicles, and metro units were destroyed.

The sabotage spread to a rice-packing warehouse in Asyut and another warehouse in Suhaj. Turah Prison was broken into and a number of prisoners were released.

These criminal actions threaten the security of the homeland and its citizens and menace the safety of the internal front, which is the foundation of all social and economic stability and the indispensable support for the success of the national action process. Therefore, it was deemed fit to impose a curfew on the governorates of Cairo, Al-Jizah, and Al-Qalyubiyah. Special units of the Armed Forces were entrusted with the task of taking control of those areas where the criminal actions started and of doing whatever was necessary to deal with the situation and deter the criminal saboteurs.

This has, in fact, been done. A large number of the leaders of the riots and instigators of the criminal sabotage have been detained. The public prosecution authorities have started interrogating them. Foreign tourists in the areas where the disturbances took place have been taken to other hotels for safety. Stringent security measures have been imposed around them and none of their lives was in danger.

Brothers and sisters: The state cannot be lenient with those who have planned these actions or with anyone who contemplates undertaking activities to betray the homeland and to stab it.

When we firmly and resolutely examine this situation, I have no doubt that we will all realize that these criminal actions have been ignited and fanned by an atmosphere of instigation, contributed by certain irresponsible quarters without thought to the sublime interests of the homeland or to the safety of its sons and institutions. During the coming days, we will continue to investigate all the implications and circumstances that preceded these incidents and which have led to their escalation and expansion in such a manner.

I would like every citizen to rest assured that, regardless of their intensity, such incidents cannot create a gap in the cohesion of our domestic front. Thanks to the people's vigilance, such activities will be crushed and resisted with diligence and strength.

May God protect dear Egypt and keep its heroic people from the evil of seditions and intrigues.

Lutfi Promises Disclosure

NC261807 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi has stated that comprehensive operations are underway to establish the extent of losses resulting from the riots that took place yesterday and today, preparatory to announcing them to the people.

Dr Lutfi affirmed that everything will be made public, not only the loss of life, damage to installations, or details of those arrested. When the prosecution has concluded its investigations the results will be announced. He pointed out that the government has announced more than once that it will be quite open and will make all the facts known to the public.

Dr Lutfi made a statement to the press this evening on the subject of ending the curfew. He said that the matter would be discussed at a meeting in 1 hour's time. Thus every citizen will know before he goes to sleep what the curfew situation will be tomorrow morning.

Asked whether there were any indications that the riotous acts had been deliberately provoked, the prime minister said: I do not want to anticipate events. As I have just said, the issue now lies with the prosecution. A large number of troublemakers have been arrested. They have been handed over to the prosecution, which is interrogating them now. The full results of investigation will be announced to the public.

Replying to a question on whether compensation will be paid to citizens affected by the riotous actions, Dr 'Ali Lutfi said: We must count up all the damage suffered by the citizens and identify all the losses. The prime minister added: In answering this question, I would like to raise an extremely important point, namely, who will be paying the price? In the end it is Egypt that will pay, whether it is the government, the citizen, the hotel owner, the car owner, or anyone else who has to pay. There is no difference between the government and the people. The national economy is the total of the government's and the citizens' possessions. This is the fundamental point I want to make. Who will benefit from all this, given our present difficult economic conditions?

Dr 'Ali Lutfi said: Although our income from oil has been reduced, the government has not so far taken any measures that might affect those on low incomes. Even if we are obliged to do something in the future, I still say that no decision will be made that will affect those on limited incomes. He added that those who had incited the riots should have protected Egypt's possessions and facilities and protected tourist installations, instead of losing new [word indistinct], which we sorely need in the present circumstances.

In his statement, Dr 'Ali Lutfi stressed that every citizen must be concerned and aware and must protect his place of work. The Egyptian People's money is invested in such establishments.

The prime minister was asked whether there were other reasons for the riots, beside the rumor that was spread yesterday about extending the service of central security conscripts for another year. He replied: All the facts will definitely be published after the public prosecution has concluded its investigations. There might be another reason but [words indistinct] except the tendentious rumor that was spread by some people in the central security soldiers' camp in the Pyramids area that the 3-year period of service is to be extended for another year. Concluding his statement, the prime minister stressed that this rumor was tendentious and baseless.

Mubarak, Lutfi Meet

NC262021 Cairo MENA in English 1805 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, Feb 26 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received here today before delivering his statement Premier Dr. 'Ali Lutfi. The meeting was attended by Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign undersecretary and director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak, Party Leaders To Meet

NC270742 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak will meet with Egyptian party leaders today to review recent developments and to become familiar with the positions taken by Egyptian parties at this critical juncture. In today's edition, *AL-AHRAM* notes that party leaders will have to be frankly informed of the passive aspects of partisan policy that contributed to an unfavorable atmosphere for the exercise of proper democratic means of expression.

The paper points out that the session will be used to emphasize the fact that Egypt's political leaders are being honest in keeping the people and the parties abreast of the facts. The president will also give some blatant examples that confirm the drawbacks of certain aspects of partisan policy.

Mubarak, Senior Aides Meet

NC271308 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met today with Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr Yusuf Wali, Deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security; Hasan Abu Basha, minister of local government; Ahmad Rushdi, minister of the interior; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; and Counselor Ahmad Mamduh 'Atiyah, minister of justice. The session was held at Cairo's Al-'Urubah Palace.

Assures Arab Leaders

NC261904 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received telephone calls from a number of Arab leaders who wished to assure themselves about the course of events in Egypt following last night's disturbances.

President Mubarak was called today by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn; Jordan's King Husayn; General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council in Sudan; and Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. President Mubarak assured each caller that the situation was stable and that calm had been restored. He also said that matters were returning to their normal state.

Lutfi on 'Last Few Hours'

NC271534 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi has affirmed that the situation is stable throughout the Republic and that everything is under complete control. In statements to correspondents today, Dr Lutfi said that the events of the last few hours were confined to Greater Cairo, Asyut, and Suhaj. He declared that the situation will gradually be restored to normal for citizens, workers, or students. He added that the Armed

Forces will be returned to barracks and the police force will take over responsibility for maintaining internal security.

In his statements, Dr 'Ali Lutfi said that all the tourists who were moved from the hotels damaged during the acts of rioting have praised the measures taken to ensure their safety and comfort. He added that most of these tourists have refused to leave Egypt. They have decided to continue their holidays, although they were offered the opportunity to leave if they so wished. Dr Lutfi pointed out that during its next meeting the Cabinet will discuss the question of compensation for those citizens whose property was damaged during the acts of rioting.

YAR President Phones Mubarak on Incidents

NC270655 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Feb (MENA) — YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih phoned President Husni Mubarak last evening to inquire about the situation in Egypt, following the incidents on the night of 25 February. SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that President Mubarak reassured the Yemeni president, pointing out that the situation is under control. The Yemeni president expressed his wish that God will protect the Egyptian people from any evil.

Opposition Parties Denounce Cairo Events

NC261908 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — The opposition parties — WAFD, Socialist Liberal, Socialist Labor, and Al-Ummah — have reiterated their condemnation and total rejection of the acts of sabotage and riot carried out by certain elements in the greater Cairo areas yesterday and today.

Counselor Mumtaz Nassar, chairman of the Wafd parliamentary body, has told MENA that his party rejects operations of sabotage. The people's money, he affirmed, has been sabotaged. Such acts only increase the burdens and tasks placed on citizens and the government, he added. Counselor Nassar noted that the demands and proposals of anyone must be presented through legal channels. What has now happened is unacceptable to any wise person, he affirmed.

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri made a statement to MENA in which he expressed his profound regret at the events initiated by a number of elements within the Central Security Forces. Regardless of the causes that have generated recent events, he stated, these elements should not have disturbed our security or attacked citizens and public and tourist places.

Al-Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi also made a statement in which he expressed his absolute denunciation of the acts of violence and sabotage that have taken place in greater Cairo. He affirmed his party's rejection of such riotous acts and violence.

In his statement, Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi'i, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, said that such events are bound to harm Egypt's foreign reputation, particularly in the field of tourism.

Assembly Official Denies Military Service Extension

NC271328 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Kamal Henri Badir, chairman of the People's Assembly Committee for National Defense and Security, has dismissed rumors that have been spread concerning a 1-year extension of national service. He noted that any such extension would have to be passed by the People's Assembly in the form of a law, and this never occurred. Therefore, the issue is one of purely tendentious rumors.

In his statement, Kamal Badir described the decision to impose a curfew as wise, adding that its purpose was to protect the people and their property, as well as public property and utilities, from those trying to take advantage of the situation to implement their terrorist schemes. Badir reaffirmed that cooperation between the people and the Armed Forces, which are responsible for preserving security and maintaining order, has curbed acts of sabotage and kept things under control.

Further on Police Riots, Government Reaction

Lebanese Radio on Riots

NC261513 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Latest reports received from Cairo say that clashes are taking place in the Al-Ma'adi area where a large number of U.S. and Israeli diplomats reside. The reports add that Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah is commanding an Army force charged with confronting the rebels, who number 8,000. At the same time, a great many tanks are encircling the security [forces] barracks in Cairo and its suburbs. An Army unit supported by vehicles is protecting the Presidential Palace.

No Foreigners Killed

NC261729 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1652 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — A responsible security source has stressed that there was no loss of life among the foreigners who happened to be in those areas affected by the riotous actions of some elements of the central security forces. It has been officially announced that around 600 foreign tourists have been moved to one of Cairo's hotels. They were unhurt. They had been staying at the Holiday Inn and Jolie Ville hotels in the Pyramids area, where riotous actions took place last night.

Universities Cancel Classes

NC261735 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1707 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — It has been decided that as of tomorrow, Thursday, classes in the universities and institutions of Greater Cairo will be cancelled until further notice. The institutions concerned are Cairo University, Al-Azhar, 'Ayn Shams, Hulwan, the American University, and Banha University.

AFP on Riots, Israeli Comment

NC261813 Paris AFP in English
1745 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, Feb 26 (AFP) — A curfew was imposed throughout Cairo Wednesday after the government called in tanks to quell riots in the shadow of the Pyramids by thousands of police who feared their conscription period would be extended. Army troops in battle dress and bullet-proof jackets were posted at major intersections and on key thoroughfares while armored vehicles were positioned on bridges and other strategic points.

For the first time in 10 years that the Egyptian Army was used to restore public order at a time when the country is in dire economic straits. [sentence as received] The disturbances were the work of badly paid and often illiterate police recruits from poor rural areas, who are assigned to protect public buildings and embassies.

Army units and professional police were replacing police conscripts outside embassies. Helicopters, probably acting as spotters, were hovering above the airport. Sporadic gunfire was heard Wednesday morning around Cairo International Airport, which officials closed to international traffic early today. The airport was reopened in mid-afternoon.

The official radio and television appealed for calm and television viewers were treated to scenes of last night's rampage during which police trainees burned down two luxury hotels in suburban Cairo near the Pyramids, battered cars in the hotel parking lots and ransacked hotel property.

The rioting spread overnight to central Cairo, where demonstrators knocked out traffic lights. Incidents were also reported in Asyut, 384 kms (240 miles) south of here, where demonstrators set fire to the traffic police headquarters and stoned several schools, in Hulwan, a nearby industrial town and Al-Ma'adi, a residential township with a large foreign population.

The rioting was apparently triggered by rumors that the police conscription period had been prolonged by a year to four and a half years. But authorities said the rumors were unfounded.

In the Cairo area, 50 police smashed the windows of a bus on Wednesday morning on a road along the Nile. Two or three injured police officers were spotted as they were rushed away from an Army barracks in the suburb of Heliopolis. U.S.-built Egyptian Air Force F-16 fighter jets flew over the Heliopolis barracks, witnesses said.

In Jerusalem, the official radio said Israeli leaders were monitoring the developments in Cairo with "the utmost attention." It quoted political sources as saying that the imposition of a curfew and the Army intervention reflected "fear and a lack of confidence" on the part of Egyptian authorities. But Israeli diplomatic sources said there was no indication that the resumption of Israeli-Egyptian negotiations on the disputed Tabah enclave in Egypt next week was in jeopardy.

So far there has been complete silence from official quarters, notably from Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi, on the reasons for the Army intervention to quell the unrest by the young police recruits, most of whom come from upper Egypt or the Nile Delta.

The crisis is the worst since Husni Mubarak assumed the presidency in October 1981.

NPUG on Cairo Events

NC261949 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1909 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party has denounced the acts of riot and sabotage which took place in Cairo yesterday and today. The party said that such acts are harmful to the interests of the homeland and its people, as well as to the democratic experience. In a statement issued this evening, the party affirmed that development of this democratic experience is a way to avoid such events.

Curfew Lifted for 3 Hours

NC262232 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2148 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] It has been decided to lift the curfew from 1100 to 1400 tomorrow, Thursday, to enable citizens to secure their needs. An official source at the Civil Aviation Ministry has stated that the Cairo International Airport is open and that the flights of all companies, including Egypt Air, are taking place on schedule.

Travelers should go to the airport well ahead of their scheduled takeoff times. Agreement has been reached with the Armed Forces to permit travelers to proceed through all checkpoints to the airport after producing their passports and valid tickets for that day of travel. The ministry calls on Egypt Air crews to report to the airport at the usual time and to produce their identification cards when necessary.

Food Supply Measures Announced

NC262255 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Supply and Internal Trade Minister Dr Naji Shatla announced measures today to ensure the provision of commodities and services to the citizens during the curfew period. In accordance with these measures, an operations room will be set up at the supply ministry to attent to the provision of flour to the bakeries and make sure that the quantities made available are sufficient for at least 3 days.

The measures further stipulate that public and private sector bakeries shall operate at their maximum capacity. They include arrangements for vehicles to distribute bread to the various parts of Greater Cairo, and instruct large stores to display increased quantities of commodities during the curfew period. The entry of vehicles carrying fruit and vegetables to Cairo will be facilitated, and the Greater Cairo slaughterhouse will operate at full capacity. An inspector will be appointed at each foodstuff distribution point, and supply centers will be set up.

Radio Commentary

NC261640 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Bahiyy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Egypt Above All Else"]

[Text] There can be no doubt that Egypt is now passing through a very sensitive stage, and all who love their country are required to be aware of its various aspects. We do not state this in an attempt to exaggerate matters with the intention of limiting options or of determining a specific participatory role for citizens to which they should be restricted. We are repeating this statement in order to emphasize that the current highly sensitive situation requires unity in thought and action to ensure that we will emerge from it safely and with minimal damage.

Yesterday's regrettable incidents, which occurred as the result of false rumors, are very strange indeed. Certain irresponsible security forces have exceeded the laws of discipline. They have attacked public and private property and disrupted normal life. The reason for this is astonishing. Security soldiers circulated a rumor about the intention to extend the service of security personnel to 4 years. They then began to commit regrettable acts. Security authorities immediately rushed to contain the crisis, to control it, and to restore matters to normal.

If the authorities were obliged to enforce strict security measures, then this was done to preserve property and to protect the lives of citizens and foreigners. It was also intended to prevent anyone from taking advantage of the situation to violate the law and to disrupt peace and order. We can confidently state that these measures are only temporary and were dictated by the nature of events. The authorities had to apply them resolutely, otherwise the situation could not have been contained.

There can be no doubt that what has occurred should be a warning to everyone that a stray word here and a false rumor there is enough to excite the public and could lead them to acts which damage the country unnecessarily. We are working night and day to develop and build Egypt, as well as to renew and expand its public utilities and its public and private industries. We are doing everything possible to extract ourselves from economic difficulties. Incidents such as those now being instigated by irresponsible elements are extremely damaging to this development process and only spread anxiety among the citizens. Despite the fact that these disturbances are limited in their scope and that the authorities have been able to contain them quickly and with determination, such incidents require all citizens to assume responsibility for preserving every stone on Egyptian soil and for protecting its heritage. This heritage belongs to all Egyptians. Any attempt to attack or to destroy Egypt is an act againt all Egyptians, their homes, their food, their children's schools, their transportation, their security, and their hopes. It is no exaggeration to say that such an act would be against the security of the Arab region, in whose heart we live.

We repeat: The incidents that have occurred have been fully contained and Egyptian media are broadcasting all the facts in order to reassure the public. Everything being broadcast by Egyptian media is the indisputable truth.

Under the current difficult circumstances, it is the responsibility of all citizens to stop anyone who trifles with the security and stability of our country. We are crossing this enormous flood of events in the same boat. We must stand together until we reach the shore of safety.

Press Comments

NC262350 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — The news of the acts of anarchy and subversion that have taken place in Cairo and certain governorates dominates the front and inside pages of the Cairo dailies. The details of the statement, which President Muhammad Husni Mubarak addressed to the people on these occurrences, are carried on the front pages.

The Cairo papers, which will appear tomorrow, Thursday, also publish pictures of the destruction and fires caused by the saboteurs.

Under the headline "They Are Trying to Murder Tomorrow," *AL-AHRAM* on its front page comments on these events as follows: Those who depart from democracy as a logical system and means of dialogue and resort to violence, arson, and subversion are simply ushering in a tomorrow devoid of life and devoid of any plan of action to open the doors of life for millions.

The paper adds: The destruction of any Egyptian installation or the obstruction of one hour of production means more sufferings for all of us, both for those who have obstructed and destroyed and those who have stood watching the tragedy.

In conclusion, the paper appeals to all political forces and parties in Egypt to safeguard democracy. It calls on everyone to stand fast so that the tribulation may be brought to an end and so that we may protect our homeland, democracy, and achievements from anarchy and its dangers.

Under the headline "The Responsibility of All of Us," *AL-AKHBAR* says: Egypt belongs to us all. We are all responsible for defending its safety and security. This is the responsibility of every Egyptian living in the land of Egypt, regardless of his affiliation. Loyalty, first and last, is to the soil of this homeland.

The paper continues: it is the duty of all of us to reject any rumor that might disrupt this entity that has been stable for thousands of years. It is our duty to firmly and courageously resist every step backward.

AL-AKHBAR stresses that the Egyptian people have proved that tribulations produce great nations and crises create great peoples.

It says: Undoubtedly, Egypt's present experience requires us most urgently to safegurd our security — the security of the country to which God almighty ordered his servants, telling them: "Enter it in peace and safety."

The paper appeals to the sons of Egypt, saying: We must plant hope and continue to build. Only the enemies of this country will benefit from what is happening.

AL-AKHBAR then asks: Shall we give them an opportunity by destroying the wall we built ourselves? Shall we uproot the (?hope) we have planted?

Casinos, Hotels Ransacked

NC270739 Paris AFP in English 0732 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, Feb 27 (AFP) — Casinos along the Avenue of the Pyramids in the Cairo suburb where rioting by police conscripts Tuesday was quelled by government troops, were ransacked and gutted overnight Wednesday and another hotel burned down, a reporter on the spot witnessed.

Tanks and armoured vehicles were still patrolling the sector Thursday. The Avenue of the Pyramids, where many hotels are situated, runs from Al-Jizah Square to the pyramids just outside the western suburb of Al-Jizah.

Witnesses said the casinos — the Ramses, Parisiana, Andalou, and Paradis — which attract hordes of wealthy tourists from the Gulf to see belly-dancing, were set ablaze and pillaged after the curfew was imposed Wednesday.

The Pyramids Holiday Inn, situated near the Mena House and Jolie Ville Hotels, which were ransacked and burned respectively on Tuesday night, had been set on fire.

Prosecutor-General Muhammad al-Jundi said in an interview with the daily *AL-AHRAM* Thursday that more than 2,000 people had been rounded up by authorities. He said that autopsies were to be carried out on those killed in the riots, without giving a figure, and added that the wounded were in two Cairo hospitals.

Prosecutor Begins Investigation

NC270838 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0707 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Public Prosecutor Counselor Muhammad al-Jundi has announced that his office began its investigation of more than 2,000 central security conscripts last night, as well as a number of those who provoked the riots and are also in custody.

In a statement to *AL-AHRAM* that was published in today's edition, the public prosecutor said that all first class advocates general, advocates general in Cairo and Al-Jizah, and several members of the prosecutor's office have to conduct this investigation and to complete it quickly so that the facts may be revealed to all.

Counselor Jamal Shuman, the assistant public prosecutor, has been appointed to supervise this process and to pass along the results on a regular basis to the public prosecutor.

Last night, members of the prosecution inspected those establishments that were sabotaged, and the injured were questioned at the Umm al-Misriyin and Heliopolis Hospitals. The interrogation of the central security conscripts and the rioters under arrest will follow.

The public prosecutor stated that his office began its investigations in Sawhaj and Asyut yesterday morning under the supervision of Advocates General Faruq Wishahi and 'Ali al-Tahir. The losses at the rice threshing mill in Sawhaj have been assessed, and the investigation in Sawhaj is nearly complete. The investigation in Asyut is still proceeding under the guidance of Counselor Faruq 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The public prosecutor has ordered autopsies to be performed on the bodies of those who were killed in order to determine the cause of death. This will be done with the coroner's knowledge.

2,000 Arrested, More Possible

NC271405 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — The public prosecutor's office is continuing the investigation it began on Wednesday into the riots that took place all day yesterday and the day before. Members of the Central Security Forces, as well as a number of instigators, took part in the disturbances.

Public Prosecutor Counselor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jundi has announced that a decision has been made to hold the defendants without bail. This will apply both to those from the Central Security Forces and those who incited the riot, and will allow the investigation to proceed. He added that more than 2,000 members of the Central Security Forces have been arrested, while the number of civilians in custody is estimated to be in the hundreds. The final figures on arrests have yet to be prepared.

The public prosecutor declared that his office is expected to order the arrest and interrogation of others still at large whom the investigation will show to have been involved in these incidents. He added that the charges filed against those defendants will include illegal assembly, the theft and use of weapons, mutiny, damaging public and private property, and any other offenses that might be revealed in the course of the inquiry.

The public prosecutor noted that 160 of his employees in the Cairo and Al-Jizah governorates are looking into these disturbances. Branches of the prosecutor's office in Suhaj, Asyut, and Al-Qalyubiyah are investigating those arrested in their respective governorates. He said a decision has been made to form a team from the Public Prosecutor's Office to inspect areas where sabotage has occurred and to have members of the prosecutor's staff question the wounded in the hospital on the circumstances of their injuries.

When asked if foreign elements ['anasir kharijiyah] were behind these events, the public prosecutor replied that the investigation to determine the responsible party is still in progress. He said he would announce the full results of the inquiry as soon as it was over.

The public prosecutor held a meeting this afternoon with government lawyers from the Cairo and Al-Jizah prosecutors' offices. Several members of the staff conducting the investigation were also present. He asked them to finish their work quickly and to make efforts to discover the saboteurs and schemers behind these incidents.

Counselor Mahir al-Jundi, the top public lawyer at the Al-Jizah prosecutor's office, has stated that the situation is completely stable throughout the area, and that he has not received any reports of additional disturbances today.

Al-Sharif on Security Situation

NC271041 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0805 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif by Cairo radio director Fahmi 'Umar — live]

[Excerpts] ['Umar:] Mr Minister, we would like to tell the public something of yesterday's events. Because there was a curfew in Greater Cairo, it was a very quiet night.

[Al-Sharif] It was not as quiet as you may think. Despite the curfew, many incidents occured yesterday. Citizens who live in Greater Cairo, near where these incidents took place, were aware of them. However, the situation is now stable. The security situation at present can, in no way, be compared to that of 25 February. Yesterday the public cooperated with the Armed Forces and police, who were doing their duty. This greatly helped to bring order and permitted the arrest of the people involved in the riots yesterday. The arrests took place while the citizens were going home before the curfew and after the curfew was in effect.

['Umar] People say that they heard gunshots in parts of Greater Cairo. Will you shed light on this matter?

[Al-Sharif] I will try to summarize what I have before me. My information will be complete because the citizens have the right to know what is going on in their country. In the Al-Jizah and Al-Ahram areas, where the riots began, conscripts who escaped hid in side roads. During the curfew, they threw flammable materials at the Vendome, (Atun), and Etab hotels, I think, as well as at tourist casinos, like the Oberge, Al-Ahram, and so forth. Of course, these people were immediately confronted. Motorized Armed Forces units, equipped with firefighting equipment, intervened. All those responsible for the riots in the area were arrested.

In the 'Ayn al-Sirah area for example, at about 1830, rioters were hiding in the cemeteries and shooting. The Armed Forces units surrounded the cemeteries, and the rioters immediately surrendered their weapons. At 1230, while people were on their way home, they encountered some [word indistinct] soldiers. The events were not widespread. Groups here and there attacked cars, smashing some of them, which seriously injured the infants inside.

['Umar] Was this before the curfew?

[Al-Sharif] This was about 1300 to 1330. People took shelter in the area mosques. The Armed Forces units quickly apprehended the rioters. In the Shubra area, where similar incidents took place, about 15 rioters carried out sabotage operations, attacking several floors of buildings and smashing cars. I think that the car belonging to my brother, the minister of emigration, [sentence as heard]. The rioters burned cars and so forth.

To our surprise, each of the 15 conscripts was carrying 50 Egyptian pounds in five 10-pound notes. This has implications, but I am only stating facts.

In Cairo railroad station, some rioters escaped by hiding in the shipping area, from where they fired shots. As a result, the Armed Forces units went to the station and immediately arrested them.

['Umar] Can we reassure the public that these elements have already [sentence as heard].

[Al-Sharif] Yes. My brother, the governor of 'Isma'iliyah, told me that the situation there is perfectly calm, referring to the camp situated along the 'Isma'iliyah desert road, where the riots took place. The Armed Forces assert that any violation or riot will be met with firm and decisive action.

Egyptians Abroad Informed

NC271129 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today informed Egyptian embassies and diplomatic and consular missions abroad of the security situation and the relevant statements, which were issued today and yesterday, including that by President Husni Mubarak. The ministry requested that these diplomatic missions explain the situation to the Egyptian expatriates, and assure them that the Egyptian authorities have secured the areas of the riot, and that life has begun to return to normal in Greater Cairo.

The Foreign Ministry also has decided to form working teams at the various ministries. These teams will explain the situation to foreign embassies in Cairo.

Communications Unaffected by Riots

NC271146 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Eng Mahmud al-Suri, deputy chief of the telecommunications authority, has told our correspondent that telephone service was not affected by the recent riots and that work continues around the clock. This is particularly true of local, long-distinace, and international communications, as well as local and foreign telegraph service.

Eng Mahmud al-Suri noted that employees are still working night and day both in the field and at various exchanges throughout the Republic. He pointed out that an operations room has been established, and is functioning on a 24-hour basis. This center is in touch with the head of each area of the Republic to determine that service has continued without interruption.

Austrian Chancellor Delays Visit

NC271147 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Franz Bogen, the Austrian ambassador in Cairo, has commended the efforts by the Egyptian authorities to protect tourists and citizens. In a statement to MENA, the Austrian ambassador said that today he visited the Al-Ahram area, where he met with the Austrian, German, and Swiss tourists who were residing at hotels there. He stated that all of them are well, adding that they wished to continue their tours of Egypt.

Ambassador Bogen said that he will discuss with the competent Egyptian authorities a new date for the visit to Egypt by Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz, who was scheduled to arrive 1 March.

Warning on Rumors Issued

NC271230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Al-Azhar Grand Shaykh Jad al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq has asserted that tendentious rumors can mislead the community and destroy it, if they take root in its soil. He said that these rumors can get the better of people, terrify, and destroy them. He stressed that Egypt is in need of cohesion and unity under the present circumstances.

In a statement issued today, Shaykh Jad al-Haqq said that the people who started the rumor that circulated among the conscripts aim to shake the foundations of this country and to make it an easy prey for every greedy enemy and traitor.

Shaykh Jad al-Haqq warned against temptation and its possible serious and uncontrollable results. He stated that temptation begins on a small scale, and then soon tears apart good and bad people, reflecting on everyone.

Security Regiment 'Exterminated'

GF270730 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic
0657 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Feb (WAM) — The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I* today reported that the Egyptian Army exterminated a whole battalion of the Central Security Forces that attempted to advance on Cairo airport. The paper quoted eyewitnesses as saying that a violent battle took place in Nasr City, east of Cairo. The battle ended in the extermination of the whole regiment, which usually consists of 300 soldiers.

AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I has learned that strict orders were issued to the Army to shoot at anything that moved, especially in the Pyramids area. Egyptian military officials told the newspaper that the Armed Forces will return to their barracks in the next few hours after the Internal Security Forces reorganize themselves. The newspaper affirmed that the Egyptian Armed Forces were able to control the situation in the country by 1700, 1 hour after the imposition of the curfew.

The military sources told the newspaper that a number of the instigators of the rebellion among members of extremists religious groups, who seized the opportunity of the rebellion among the Central Security Forces to carry out sabotage acts, have been arrested and will stand trial before a field military court within the next 2 days.

Asyut Governor on Losses

NC271517 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Asyut, 27 Feb (MENA) — The governor of Asyut, Major General Zaki Badr, has stressed that life is normal at every place of business in the governorate. He noted that the city of Asyut is completely calm, and that classes are being held as scheduled at the Universities of Asyut and Al-Azhar and in the Education Ministry's schools and institutes.

Maj Gen Zaki Badr made a statement to a MENA correspondent today after inspecting areas where property had been damaged or destroyed in yesterday's riots. The general emphasized that the quick and timely intervention of the Armed Forces was largely responsible for stopping these incidents in the city of Asyut.

The governor added that the Asyut traffic department, as well as major depots for spare parts and the governorate's mechanical equipment, were completely burned. A rice packing factory and 140 tons of its output were also lost. All of these installations were located in front of the central security camp in Manqabad.

Commentary on Riot 'Facts'

NC271527 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "We Must Be Extremely Vigilant"]

[Text] Judged by any criteria, recent events were a surprise for every citizen, a surprise in timing and manner. Above all, the biggest surprise were the perpetrators themselves. While we realize that irresponsible elements in society may fall into error, we can, at the same time, declare with full conviction that Egyptian society as a whole is sound and rejects all those who exceed their limits. These regretable incidents were the best proof of this. The Egyptian masses responded promptly to all the quick and decisive measures taken by the Egyptian authorities. This response was the greatest help to the authorities, who were able to forge ahead with their mission, contain the situation, and punish the rioters.

While these events left behind great damage and a degree of pain, they put us face to face with facts that should be clear to all citizens. The most significant of these is that what occurred cannot be divorced from the general atmosphere in the country of late. By this we mean the attempt by some people to create an atmosphere of doubt among the public. The political leadership has more than once warned against the consequences of persisting in these excesses, which are harmful to the supreme interests of the homeland and the safety of its sons and institutions. Nevertheless, some people did not fully understand this warning, and, unfortunately, the recent events confirmed the fears of the political leadership, for they showed that when emotions are stirred up with reports sometimes exaggerated and other times totally devoid of truth, they may lead to an outburst that touches us all.

Another fact is that these events confirmed the soundness and solidity of the domestic front. There can be no better proof of this than the way in which the political command unhesitatingly announced that the rioting had extended from Al-Jizah and Cairo to governorates in the heart of Upper Egypt. This means that we hold our heads up high and do not conceal anything. We are not afraid of domestic or foreign complications.

A third fact is that those who are linked to us resent us more than we imagined. We are sorry to say that Arab countries around us hastened to describe the incidents as an uprising against a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem, and said that the Egyptian masses had joined the uprising. Naturally, statements of this sort are not worth answering, for to respond to lies is a waste of time and would show lack of respect for those egyptians who are following events with heartfelt pain and sorrow.

A fourth fact is that these events have proved the strength and unity of the Egyptian people and their outstanding ability to withstand crises and to stand together in critical times. Our unity is our protective armor in all crises, and it is now the only thing keeping us alive. We must stay on our guard so that no one can circulate baseless rumors or create resentment among ourselves. What took place was a crisis that cost dear but is past. Nevertheless, in the final analysis, it was an important experience that demonstrates that democracy, more democracy, is our only means of forging ahead on the road to construction and peace.

Danish Queen Concludes Visit, Departs

NC261426 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and her delegation left Cairo for home this afternoon at the end of an official and private visit to Egypt that lasted several days. Queen Margrethe II arrived in Cairo on 19 February for a 3-day official visit, which included a meeting with President Husni Mubarak. She followed it with a private trip that featured stops at archaeological and tourist sites in Egypt.

'Abd al-Majid Meets Italian Official

NC261133 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Italian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary (rufaelli). During their meeting, they reviewed developments in the Middle East, and Europe's role in pushing the march toward peace forward. They also discussed ways of broadening Arab-Italian cooperation in various fields.

Al-Janzuri Addresses Assembly on Debts

PM261113 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 24 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, has stated that Egypt's debts through the end of September 1985 totalled $25 billion. Of these, $16 billion are public loans; $4.8 billion are allocated to suppliers and bank facilities; and $4.2 billion are in bonds, deposits, and IMF special withdrawal rights.

The deputy prime minister said in a statement before the People's Assembly that $15.7 billion or 63 percent of the debts have been allocated to production, investments, and services projects, of which $2.6 billion are for industry, $2.1 billion for transport and communications, $1.7 billion for electricity, $1.1 billion for housing, $500 million for petroleum, and $300 million for the purchase of equipment. With regard to industries, basic investment is directed toward developing the weaving and textiles factories. In the transport sector $159 million were allocated for subways, $24 million for the development of the port of Suez, $767 million for the Suez Canal, $563 million for telephones and the electricity sector, $306 million for the Shubra power station, and $101 million for the Hulwan and Talkha power stations.

Dr al-Janzuri said that the government's policy is moving toward a rationalization of loans and self-reliance, as well as striking a balance between the various economic sectors in a manner that will enable repayment of loans, giving priority to long-term loans that, in 1981-1982, represented 58 percent of the loans and increased to 64 percent during the first 3 years of the current development plan. The short-term loans in 1980 represented 20 percent that dropped to 18 percent during those 3 years. The debt burden reached its peak during the current fiscal year, totaling $3.1 billion. But the present debt burden is due to the accumulation of debts before we moved toward rationalizing the loans.

The deputy prime minister said the greater part of $5 billion was allocated for the purchase of wheat and flour. [as published] He said that we obtained 61 percent of our loans from 6 different parties, of which 27.5 percent was from the United States, 10 percent from the Gulf fund, 6.5 percent from the World Bank, 6.2 percent from the FRG, 5.2 percent from France, and 5.1 percent from Japan.

The deputy prime minister said that some people were confused about estimating the volume of Egyptian debts but they can be excused for being so because they hear about Egypt's debts sometimes in Egyptian pounds and other times in dollars. There is a great difference between the two. There are also some who have heard about the public debt, confusing the domestic debt and foreign debt. Some people alleged that the IMF report stated that military debts total $8 billion. I must say that the IMF documents never mention military debts. We do not deny that military debts are debts. There is also confusion regarding what is being said about debts and data in this regard, for the data are numerous and vary from month to month.

Dr al-Janzuri said that the debts are a heavy burden on the Egyptian economy. In 1971, he added, the debts were $1.4 billion and in 1982 they went up to $18.6 billion. The first 5-year plan included a document showing the loans in Egyptian pounds because the only source on debts is the Central Bank, which estimates debts in the local currency. We are not seeking to underestimate the volume of debts, as some people allege, because if this was our intention we would not have stated the debts in full in the plan's documents.

The plan's philosophy is self-relaince and limiting loans. Foreign debts in all Third World countries have increased. In the 1960's the debts of the developing world countries totalled $4.6 billion; that is all the developing countries with the exception of the oil-producing countries. This amount increased to $130 billion in 1973 and to $895 billion in 1984.

Egypt went rapidly into debt in order to maintain production capacity, particularly in agriculture, and to rebuild the infrastructure networks, to renovate energy sources in Egypt such as the Suez Canal and the oilfields, and, finally, to purchase foodstuffs, primarily wheat.

Transport Minister Speaks on Downed Iranian Airliner

JN271128 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) — 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, has described Iranian claims that the military transport plane Iraqi fighter planes destroyed last Thursday is a civilian plane as false and part of the series of lies the Iranian regime has been resorting to.

The minister explained that the plane, an F-27 Friendship model, is a military plane that is designed for military transportation. Some countries have modifed it to enable it to carry torpedoes that can hit vessels and naval units. He added that these planes can also be equipped with bombs that can destroy submarines. They have been equipped with radar and other electronic devices for detecting naval units or submarines.

'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim stressed that the plane was from the Dowshan Tappeh base, which belongs to the Iranian Air Force. Its pilots were Air Force officers and not civilian pilots. They were Lieutenant Colonel ('Abd al-Baqi Darwish), Major (Faraz), and Lieutenant (Seyyed Hoseyni). He added that those killed when the plane was shot down over the battlefield were members of the Iranian military command. The most prominent among them was Fadhlollah Mahalati, Khomeyni's representative in the revolution guards command.

The Iraqi minister reviewed the contradictory statements the Iranian authorities have made which refute the claims they made later on the nature and identity of the destroyed plane. In this respect, the minister said that an official in the Iranian airline company told REUTER immediately after the incident that the plane belonged to the army. When AFP contacted an official in charge of air traffic at Tehran airport to seek clarifications about the incident, the official replied that he knew nothing about the crash of any civilian plane in Iranian airspace. This took place following the announcement by Iranian authorities and the Iranian representative at the United Nations that the plane downed by Iraqi fighter planes was a civlian aircraft.

The Iraqi minister added: The so-called Iranian information offce also replied to a query by REUTER and AFP by saying that it had no information.

The Iraqi minister recalled that the Iranian military plane was shot down over Ahvaz, which is in a military zone, and only a few kilometers from the battlefield. It is also known that the Ahvaz hospital has been transformed into a military hospital, as an Iranian official told REUTER.

The minister said Iran's claims that the plane was a civilian aircraft clearly give the impression that the Iranian authorities are using their civilian airlines for military purposes.

The minister said that the Iranian authorities fully responsible for this and added that this measure violates Article 4 of the International Civil Aviation Charter issued in Chicago. He called on the International Civil Aviation Organization to condemn this criminal Iranian action.

Exclusion Zone Around Khark Island Said Expanded

JN262113 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad announced today that it has expanded the exclusion zone it had specified in the Gulf to prevent ships from proceeding to Iranian ports. The commander of Iraq's coastal defense forces, 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Abdallah, said that the red line has been extended to reach the Kuwaiti coast.

The line which Iraq defined in Gulf waters in early 1984 was 80 km in diameter. Now the diameter of the line around Khark Island is 110 km. The commander said that any ship that approaches this line will be hit before reaching the Kuwaiti coast.

Iran warned against allowing Iraqi forces to use the Kuwaiti Island of Bubiyan.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Iranians Begin Retreat in Al-Faw

JN261933 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Southern sector, 26 Feb (INA) — The commander of the northern column has stated that the invading Iranian forces have started to retreat under Iraqi blows in the VII Army Corps sector. At a press conference today attended by Arab and foreign reporters, the commander noted that the situation will shortly be decided in our favor because the morale of the Iranian forces is now collapsing. He said: We have now started the phase of liquidating and completely destroying enemy forces.

The commander pointed out that since its 9-10 February attack on Al-Faw, Iran has suffered grave losses in men and equipment and has lost many of its regular and irregular divisions as well as a number of its bridges both in the operational areas and inside Iran, particularly Khowr-e Bahmanshir along the Shatt al-'Arab and the Qarun River. This interrupted enemy supply lines and put its forces in a critical situation in Al-Faw.

Spokesman on Iranian Losses

JN271257 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) — Iraq has announced that its forces have inflicted heavy losses amounting to 30-40 percent on the Iranian forces in the VII Army Corps sector. An Iraqi military spokesman said that various units of the Iraqi Armed Forces, including fighter planes and helicopter gunships, have succeeded in removing whole Iranian divisions from the battlefield.

The spokesman added that the following Iranian divisions were destroyed and removed from the battlefield: the 25th, 41st, 5th, 17th, 27th, and 37th guard divisions; five independent guards brigades destroyed in addition to several tank battalions of the 30th Guards Brigade; and units of the 77th, 81st, 21st, and 30th regular regiments.

The spokesman stressed that the Iranian formations wiped out or virtually destroyed are equivalent to nine regiments.

As for the III Army Corps front, the following Iranian units were wiped out and removed from the battlefield: the 1st Armored Brigade of the 81st Armored Regiment, the 2d Infantry Brigade of the 77th Armored Division, and one brigade of the 21st Division. The spokesman said that details of the destruction of the Iranian units will be announced after they are completely exterminated.

I Army Corp Confronts Northern Attack

JN271214 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military source has told INA that the Iranian aggressors sent some of their units to attack mountainous vantage points on Iraq's international border in the Chuwartah area in northern Iraq. The source said that Iraqi forces belonging to the I Army Corps are confronting the attacking Iranian forces. A large number of Iranians have been killed or wounded. The spokesman stressed that the Iraqi forces are in complete control of the situation in this area.

The military source said: The Iranian regime believed that this frustrated attempt would ease the pressure on its forces on the VII Army Corps front or that it might save them from their tribulation. He is mistaken if it believes so. The source said that complete annihiliation awaits them on the VII Army Corps front.

The military source said the Iranian enemy's offensive in the northern area is the result of the deteriorating situation on the main battle front and also the result of the heavy losses sustained in Shatt al-'Arab.

Iranian Occupation of North Denied

JN262119 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] An Iraqi Military spokesman has denied that Iran has occupied 200 sq km of territory in Iraqi Kurdistan. Battles are reportedly continuing in this area and in the entire northeastern part of the front.

INA Updates Battle Situation

JN270718 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) — The situation in the VII Army Corps sector is being settled in favor of the Iraqi forces, which are imposing complete control on the battle axes in preparation for definitively settling the battle in their favor. The commander of the northern column stressed that Iraqi forces are now in the stage of exterminating the aggressor Iranian forces.

Iraqi planes continue to pounce on enemy positions, troops positions, and rear lines, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment.

AL-THAWRAH's correspondent says that not a single minute passes without an Iraqi plane launching its missiles at the Iranians. The correspondent adds that many planes have to fly in circles over the area waiting for others to fire their missiles at Iranian targets before they can do the same thing themselves.

An Iraqi field commander affirms that Iraqi forward units are entrenching their positions and preparing to pursue the Iranians in order to deal them the final blow. He adds that confusion prevails among enemy ranks. All outlets have been closed and the Iranians cannot escape their gloomy fate. The commander says the Iranians must grasp any opportunity to retreat in an organized manner before the Iraqi forces complete their siege.

The Iranian rulers are trying to cover up for their defeat by making false claims. No matter what maneuvers or tricks they use in this or that sector, however, they will not alter the fact that they have sustained one of the most bitter defeats. Their losses surpass the losses they sustained in any previous battle during the 6 years of the war.

Commander Affirms Navy Control

JN260937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — The commander of the Iraqi Navy and Coastal Defense force has affirmed that the Iraqi Navy is in full control of the northern part of the Arab Gulf and the operations area fixed by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command at 70 nautical miles.

Vice Admiral 'Abd Muhammad 'Abdallah added that all the Iranian fleet's attempts to break the siege were doomed to failure after suffering massive losses. By these attempts, he said, the Iranian fleet intended to help and support the Iranian forces that are besieged in the Al-Faw triangle.

In a press conference attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign press and news agencies today, 'Abdallah said that the Iraqi command has an accurate conception of the future development of sea operations as confirmed by the current battles. He affirmed that the size of the Iranian fleet's losses during the first week of the Al-Faw battles indicates the ability of the Iraqi Navy and the extent of its control over the zone of sea operations.

He said the losses the Iraqi Navy inflicted on the Iranian fleet during that week amounted to 37 vessels. These included missile boats, supply, command, warning, and landing ships as well as hovercraft, in addition to the destruction of Abadan-Ra's al-Bishah bridge and an oil tanker, the dowing of an F-5 fighter plane, and the capturing of two landing craft along with some of their crew.

Navy Hits 3 Maritime Targets

JN270800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0748 GMT 27 Feb

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Navy continues to patrol the northern part of the Arab Gulf, imposing its complete control, protecting its waters, and preventing the Khomeyniite rogues from using it for any purpose that might serve their evil designs. Our brave Navy last night dealt destructive blows to a very large maritime target south of the Bushehr Port, near the Iranian Coast, and to two large maritime targets, the first southeast of Khark Island.

Glory to you brave men of the sea —commander, officers, and other ranks for what you have offered and are offering for the great homeland. May God guide your steps toward victory.

[Dated] 27 February 1986

Nigerian Tanker Reportedly Hit

JN262056 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Merchantile shipping sources say that a huge oil tanker flying the Nigerian flag was hit by an Iraqi missile near Khark Island today. The sources say that the 330,000-ton tanker, *(Midolta)*, was hit in its bow.

Communique No 2,129 Issued

JN261755 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,129 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing to destroy enemy forces and to purge the soil which God has blessed of their filth. The criminal enemies of Iraq have only one of two alternatives: either complete surrender and withdrawal from every inch of our land along with their evil and filth or complete annihilation of what remains of their rogues. Our massive armies are capable, God willing, of killing all those whom the Khomeyniites have sent or are thinking of sending. We will transform the earth into a burning fire devouring the evil and the evildoers. None of them will escape this fire. This will be our men's pledge to our people.

The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. In the VII Army Corps sector, our forces are imposing their absolute domination over the operational theater, thanks to our superior forces and firepower and high morale. Our forces are carrying out their duties with impeccable performances in accordance with present plans. Therefore, our forces last night and today released a torrent of fire against enemy forces. They were supported by our Air Force, Army helicopters, artillery, armor, and missile units. This was in implementation of the plan to completely destroy all enemy forces confined between the fire and the water and completely liberate our land. Our forces will continue their march toward their targets in accordance with predetermined times for each of our brave columns.

2. Our brave Air Force continues to spread death among enemy troops by dropping tons of bombs on them, killing them, and destroying their equipment. They carried out 54 combat missions, as well as the following two operations:

a. At 1415 [1115 GMT] today, our planes launched a successful raid against Khark Island installations, hitting their targets and setting them ablaze.

b. At the same time, other planes launched a raid against a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate, effective hit. After carrying out their missions, our pilots returned to the homeland with their planes safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

3. With their well-known courage and performance, our helicopter gunshipmen continued their activities by lending glorious support to our land units by dropping destructive bombs on the enemy. They killed enemy troops and destroyed their resources in 174 combat missions, after which the men of our helicotpers returned to their bases with their helicopters safe and triumphant, God be praised.

4. Our formations continue to strike enemy positions opposite them. They killed four enemy men and destroyed one boat, one ammunition dump, and one infantry position in the III Army Corps sector east of al-Basrah, destroyed one ammunition dump, one infantry position, and one observation post in the II Army Corps central sector, and destroyed one boat in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. The criminal enemy shelled Mandali with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 February 1986

King Husayn Addresses West Bank Delegations

JN271017 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court yesterday evening with delegations representing the villages of Jayyus, (Saqah al-Hatab), Sirah, Dayr 'Ammar, Huwwarah near Nabulus, Dayr Istiya, the villages of the Nabulus Governorate, and the Qatanah tribes in Jerusalem Governorate. His majesty also met with a delegation representing the sons of the Bethlehem area, Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Fajjar, Husan, Nahhalin, Battir, and Artas. He also met with a delegation representing the tribes of Armenians and Kurds in the Kingdom.

King Husayn addressed the delegations. He said: This phase we are experiencing prompts us to reassess matters. The circumstances require us to consider our real state of affairs, to reveal things to one another with the fraternity and frankness to which we have been accustomed and which is manifested by our kinfolk and brothers, and to discuss our situation.

His majesty added: A few days ago I wanted to frankly assert that the bases of the agreement of 11 February 1985 remain unchanged. We believe in this agreement and in the balanced relationship between the Arab Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, along with their wings on the eastern and western sides of the river. We will protect it with our hearts and souls. Accordingly, these bases will remain as they are, not because we signed that agreement, but because we believe in the bases. We raised a concept on these same bases in 1972, and we will continue to work so that the relationship is among kinfolk and brothers in one march under all circumstances —circumstances in which the Jordanian preserves his character, identity, and features and in which the Palestinian also preserves his character, identity, and features as well as his rights within a framework that encompasses all of us and organizes our march.

The issue, his majesty said, is not a dispute with the PLO, which represents the Palestinian people. We have reached a point beyond which we cannot move. It tests our credibility, for which we are known in the world. We carried the PLO along with us after what it had faced on its lengthy journey here and there, regardless of the reasons. We wanted the PLO to force the world to respect it through its credibility too.

We feel the danger encircling us in our Arab world in the form of internal unrest, estrangement, and differences, as well as the real dangers that are before us here with regard to Israel and its intentions and schemes which are being implemented phase by phase.

His majesty said: Our pride in our kinfolk who are steadfast on their land is unlimited. Their word should be heeded prior to any other talk. Their voice should be heard. They obtained the right through their steadfastness, suffering, bearing, and adherence to the land which, if lost, would result in something we do not desire.

The PLO has the duty — which I will not define but which is suggested by its name and character —of being a liberation organization. The Palestine question, in my opinion —I hope I am not wrong — was supposed over the course of years to rally all hearts and potentials in the Arab world and to gain supporters in this world. Those who worked for this question should have endeavored to achieve this.

His majesty added: We truthfully and sincerely worked with the PLO, considering it a symbol and title reflecting the Palestinian people's aspirations, hopes, and agonies. I assert that we do not agree to be an alternative to our kinfolk and brothers of the Palestinian people and to the leadership they choose. This has been our commitment since 1974. We still adhere to it and will continue to do so.

The question is: Were we right or wrong in giving a statement of account to our kinfolk and brothers? The PLO's strength is derived from us and from every one of you, the Palestinian people. The question posed to you is: Do you support the PLO and its stand? Is heroism and national action served by rejecting the two UN Security Council resolutions and keeping matters as they are? Should we correct the march? I am speaking as one who feels he is a Palestinian.

It is up to you. We cannot continue to coordinate politically with the PLO leadership. We are not against the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, but the PLO must reflect the aspirations, hopes, agonies, and desires of the people it represents. It is up to you so that we can work and move. This does not mean that we will not provide our utmost support and back our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territories.

His majesty added: Our duty is, therefore, to raise matters, with this degree of frankness, before all brothers. I support the PLO but also support liberating the Palestinian people from terrorism and liberating the Palestinian will and word so that the PLO reflects what is present in the conscience of the Palestinian people. At that time, we can effectively confront all difficulties and challenges. Our determination is unyielding and we are strong because we are right.

Jerusalem: King Husayn Cancels Maneuvers With U.S.

JN261601 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has cancelled his Army's joint maneuvers with the U.S. Army scheduled to take place in the near future. He also ordered the replacement of the U.S.-made M-16, the personal weapon of the Jordanian soldier, with the Soviet-made Kalashinkov rifle. King Husayn has also decided to invite a Soviet military delegation to visit Jordan. The king took these decisions in response to the U.S. decision not to sell Jordan modern fighter planes and modernized surface-to-air missiles.

Our correspondent in Washington said that King Husayn disclosed this in an interview with two well-known U.S. journalists, Evans and Novak.

King Husayn also accused Washington of submitting to the Israeli lobby in the United States.

Report on Al-Jumayyil, Syrian Envoy Meeting

NC270510 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Feb 86 pp 1,9

[Paris datelined report titled: "Another Version of the Striking Marrakech Meeting; Al-Jumayyil Is the One Who Requested It and Who Talked; He Asked the Ambassador To Convey Greetings and Not Message to Al-Asad"]

[Text] Arab diplomatic circles here are discussing information about some of the results achieved by President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to France, the Vatican, and Morocco, which included a meeting between the Lebanese president and Ahmad 'Isa, the Syrian ambassador to Morocco. This particular meeting has already drawn a certain amount of attention and led to different interpretations.

These same diplomatic circles quote official Lebanese sources as saying that President al-Jumayyil has pinned great hope on a distinguished role being played by the Vatican, with the support of France, to restore dialogue with Damascus. Saudi Arabia is also expected to play a role in this regard, the sources added.

However, information available to Arab diplomatic circles in Paris concerning the Marrackech meeting and Saudi mediation is different in context from what sources in the Lebanese regime are saying. According to this information, some of it from Rabat itself, the meeting was held at the request of President al-Jumayyil and not at the request of the Syrian ambassador. The Syrian ambassador has expressed to visitors his surprise at receiving an invitation from the Lebanese ambassador to have coffee. The ambassador assumed that Al-Jumayyil had planned a protocol meeting with the Arab ambassadors accredited to Morocco. Such meetings are common whenever a head of state visits a foreign capital. The ambassador then flew from Rabat to Marrakech only to be surprised that he was the sole invitee.

The ambassador noted that there had not been time to notify Damascus in advance, something that he thought unnecessary anyway for a protocol meeting requested by the Lebanese president. He also had in mind the fact that the present problem in Lebanon was not the result of any disagreement between Damascus and President al-Jumayyil so much as it was due to a difference between the latter and other Lebanese factions. Damascus had tried to mend the rift, but failed as a result of the stand adopted by the Lebanese president.

According to Arab diplomats in Paris and Arab politicians who were in Rabat at the time, President al-Jumayyil did not ask Ambassador Ahmad 'Isa to convey any message to President Hafiz al-Asad. Al-Jumayyil just gave the ambassador a long lecture in which he tried to justify his stands. He also sought to confirm that he had not changed or altered his view regarding the Syrian option, or his assessment of Syria's special role in Lebanon.

Ambassador 'Isa, who spent most of the meeting listening, is quoted as saying that President al-Jumayyil asked him to convey his greetings to President al-Asad. He also stated that President al-Jumayyil's remarks were in accordance with the following points:

1. The Lebanese president is ready to conclude a Syrian-sponsored peace agreement and is now capable of bearing such a responsibility. "I am in a position to say that I represent all of Lebanon's Christians. I am prepared to go a long way and to turn the tripartite agreement into a firm, cultural accord. Elie Hubayqah was in no position to speak for the Christians or to sign anything on their behalf."

2. Al-Jumayyil was eager to emphasize that he did not start the war against Hubayqah, but that it was Hubayqah himself who began the conflict. "I was in Damascus when he started it, so how can I be responsible for frustrating the tripartite agreement?"

3. Al-Jumayyil informed the Syrian ambassador of his readiness to go back on his mistake and to apologize, provided Syria is prepared to reconsider its attitude toward him personally. "If one supposes that I erred by 99 percent and Syria by 1 percent, we must renew our ties and resume our dialogue to find a way out of the current crisis."

4. Al-Jumayyil emphasized the impossibility of fully implementing the tripartite agreement. Had that been done, there would have been a "catastrophe."

5. Al-Jumayyil accused Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam "of hastily taking a position against me while I was still at Damascus Airport by saying there would be no 12th or 13th summit...."

President al-Jumayyil concluded his discussions with the Syrian ambassador by stressing his great respect for President al-Asad and reiterating his readiness to reach an understanding with him and to conclude a serious agreement to end the war in Lebanon.

These diplomatic sources also noted that President al-Jumayyil extended his stay in Morocco pending an answer from Saudi Arabia to his request to pay a visit and meet with King Fahd. The Saudi reply came containing a polite apology, which said that the king and Government of Saudi Arabia were preoccupied with the serious developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

King Fahd apparently feared that the Lebanese president would misunderstand his message, so he asked the Saudi mediator to meet with him, pass along the reply, reaffirm the Kingdom's goodwill and readiness to do its utmost on behalf of fraternal Lebanon.

This served as the basis for the meeting held in Cyprus on the eve of President al-Jumayyil's return to Beirut.

Al-Qadhdhafi Conveys Message to Al-Jumayyil

NC270605 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Informed political sources have told the newspaper *AL ANWAR* that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has received a verbal message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In his message, Al-Qadhdhafi states that the Libyan Jamahiriyah is eager to see Lebanon stable and peaceful once more, and to have its people reach agreement on new foundations for the construction of their homeland.

These sources noted that 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's secretary for foreign liaison, called a Lebanese official and conveyed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's message to President al-Jumayyil. According to these sources, Al-Turayki said that Al-Qadhdhafi supports any effort that could lead to a solution of the Lebanese crisis, which should be a top priority at this point.

Security Around Soviet Embassy Strengthened

NC262048 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] According to security reports, the guard around the Soviet Embassy was tightened today. Members of this guard, who belong to local parties and organizations, have been observed in continuous movement around the embassy and in the streets surrounding it. According to the same reports, the guards have prevented anyone from approaching the embassy gates or traversing nearby pavements. They have confined entry and exit to a side door leading onto the Al-Mazra'ah-Mar Ilyas road.

Prime Minister Karami Meets Syria's 'Abbas

NC261619 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas, a member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Organization in Lebanon, met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami today. During the session, 'Abbas conveyed the Syrian leadership's support for the formation of a national command in Lebanon.

'Abbas noted that an expanded meeting will be held in Damascus next week, and will be attended by Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, as well as 'Isam al-Mahayri, George Hawi, and 'Asim Qansuh.

In addition, 'Abbas passed along the Syrian leadership's condemnation of the kidnappings and assassinations taking place in West Beirut. He said that these serve Lebanon's enemies.

Meanwhile, we have learned that the Syrian observers in West Beirut have been summoned to 'Anjar for consulations with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon] on the security situation in West Beirut. Colonel 'Abd al-Salam al-Daghastani, commander of the Syrian observers in Lebanon, was also present.

According to our information, these consultations were the result of pressure brought to bear on Damascus by communist parties in the Middle East. These parties gave senior officials the job of discussing the assassination of Communist Party cadres in West Beirut. It has been reported that the Soviet Union directly intervened in the question of the assassination of two Lebanese communists.

Reportage on Fighting Between Various Factions

Fighting, Snipers in Beirut

NC261042 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0945 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Rockets, machineguns, and mortars are being used in the fighting that has been raging for about an hour along the Ra's al-Nab'-Sodeco-Primo-al-Barjawi combat line. Junblatt's snipers in 'Alayh are shooting at Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh, while Bsaba is coming under similar fire from al-Ma'rufiyah.

Cease-Fire Called in Beirut

NC270549 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The intensity of clashes on the Primo-Al-Barjawi-Sodeco combat line increased at 0650 today. Sniper fire, which gunmen have been directing at Army positions in the area since dawn today, developed into artillery and rocket shelling. The heavy shelling could be heard in various parts of Beirut. Shells have reportedly fallen in the vicinity of Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies building], the military court, Du Chayla Stadium, the International Club, and the Sodeco.

Security sources reported that travel on the Al-Barbir-Museum Road is dangerous; and on the Qasqas-Al-Masalih Road is precarious.

Following the sudden deterioration of the situation, the security committee negotiated a cease-fire, which went into effect at 0715. The parties appear to be respecting the cease-fire, a security committee source said.

Fighting Resumes in Beirut, Suburb

NC270559 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The security situation on the Ra's al-Nab' and Al-Barjawi lines erupted at approximately 0645 today. Shells have hit areas beyond the contact lines. Intermittent clashes are taking palce on the Kafr Shima-Al-Shuwayfat combat lines. Security committee sources have said that committee members are making contacts to end these clashes and restore the situation to normal.

These sources said that traffic at the crossing points is light. The Museum-Al-Barbir crossing is closed because of the clashes on the Al-Barjawi and Ra's al-Nab' lines.

Birri Says Israel Took Bodies of Amal 'Martyrs'

NC261503 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has met with a delegation from the Progressive Socialist Party that included Muhsin Dallul, 'Ali al-Musawi, and Abu Haytham. They reviewed the political and security situations as well as ways of strengthening the nationalist position and keeping things under control in the capital.

Birri was briefed on conditions in a number of southern villages during a session with delegations from Ma'rakah, Burj al-Shamali, and Haris. After his audience with the group from Haris, Nabih Birri said: We heard a report on what took place in this steadfast town and the heroic stands that were made there. Although Haris was badly damaged during the recent incidents, the losses inflicted on the Israelis totaled 13 dead and 4 personnel carriers destroyed. Amal fighters Muhammad Nayif Ahmad, Diyab Yihya, Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad, as well as Yusuf Nasir and his son, were all martyred. Birri added: The Israelis' insolence and repression have reached such a degree that they took away the bodies of the martyrs, and have not allowed any relatives or the Red Cross to take custody of them. Birri called on the international community, the Red Cross, and humanitarian organizations to force Israel to hand over these bodies, which are in Bint Jubayl.

Reportage on Fighting in Nation's South

Israeli-Lahd Positions Attacked

NC271229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Islamic resistance fighters have launched a daring attack on a post held by the Israeli Army and agent Lahd's men in the Kafr Huna area of Jazzin. Following a violent 1-hour battle, and after killing 15 guards, they stormed the position. The commander of the operation, Abu Muhammad, was martyred, and the occupation forces have refused to hand over his body.

Towns Under 'Violent' Shelling

NC262030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] According to reports received from the south a short while ago, the townships of Kafra, Yatar, and Haris have been subjected to violent artillery shelling and sniper fire since 2105 this evening. Israeli helicopters are conducting searches along the Kafra-Yatar-Al-Siddiqin road. This Israeli move is in response to an operation launched by resistance men against a Lahd militia position on the Al-Huqban hill near Kafra shortly after 2100.

VOL Official Quits, Takes Advisor Post With Ja'Ja'

NC261120 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Feb 86 p 3

[Text] Twafiq al-Hindi has resigned from the General Directorate of the Voice of Lebanon [VOL] radio. This followed his resignation from the General Directorate of the Information Department under the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee. Al-Hindi now holds the title of information and political adviser to Samir Ja'ja', chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee.

Reportage on Official Reaction to Cairo Riots

Cairo Police Say 15 Killed

TA[illegible]132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Observers in Egypt say the current crisis there is the gravest since Mubarak took office about 4 and 1/2 years ago. President Mubarak said a curfew had to be imposed in order to control the situation and repel destructive criminal elements. Cairo police sources said 15 people had been killed and over 300 wounded in the riots.

Schiffer Reports Official Reaction

TA261818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Talk in the studio between moderator Gil'ad Sher and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on 26 February — live]

[Excerpts] [Sher] How is Jerusalem assessing the developments in Egypt?

[Schiffer] The official reaction in Jerusalem is that Israel does not interfere in another country's internal affairs, and this applies to events in our neighboring country, Egypt. However, beyond this laconic reaction, here in Jerusalem people have been anxiously following developments in Egypt. During the past few months Jerusalem has received top-secret reports and assessments, mainly from highly placed U.S. sources, on President Mubarak's grave domestic position. In addition to these assessments, the Americans requested that Israel not pressure the Egyptian president. On the other hand, there were also reports stating that the Egyptians have asked the Americans to reduce their presence in Egypt — to reduce the size of the U.S. Embassy there — because this subject aroused bitterness among various groups in Egypt. Furthermore, sources in Jerusalem have noted in recent months the extraordinary security measures around President Mubarak: The president has not moved openly along the streets of Cairo in the past year.

As for evaulations of events in Egypt, sources here have told us that this is a real and difficult confrontation between President Mubarak and the results of his policy, namely, that of liberalization, and of the opportunity he gave the opposition in Egypt to act openly. Incidentally, it should be noted that President Mubarak himself, when he met with Minister 'Ezer Weizman, explained that perhaps the impression being gained in the West — that he is not in control of the siutation — emanates from the fact that he permits the opposition newspapers to write and to act, something which was not possible during the times of President al-Sadat and Al-Nasir. This is what he asked to be relayed to the prime minister: Do not infer from these reports that I am not in control of the situation. The questions being asked this evening in Jerusalem are: Will the people join in the riots? Will the Army join? Will the riots spread? Only if these questions are answered, can the main question be asked: Will the Egyptian president manage to control the situation? Another thing we are told here in Jerusalem is that there is no connection between Israeli-Egyptian relations and the riots in Egypt, even if these relations come up in the coming days through the riots. The belief here in Jerusalem is that Mubarak will ultimately gain control of the situation, and this will eventually lead to a new attitude toward the opposition there.

Slowdown in Normalization Expected

TA270553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Studio talk between anchorman 'Oded Ben-'Ami and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Good morning to our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer.
[Schiffer] Good morning.

[Ben-'Ami] How does Jerusalem assess events in Cairo?
[Schiffer] The bottom line in the assessment of the elements responsible for this subject in the Foreign Ministry and other institutions in Israel is that despite the signs of disquiet in Egypt, President Mubarak's regime is stable and he may succeed in overcoming the elements causing instability in the country. This assessment was first presented to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this week in the course of a debate on the situation in Egypt, even before the riots broke out. The Knesset Members were told that the signs of internal disquiet against the background of the economic situation are generally increasing in Egypt. They enumerated the following reasons for the deterioration of the economic situation: the continued decline of the price of crude oil; lower income from the passage through the Suez Canal; less tourism and less revenues from Egyptians working in the Gulf states. All these have created the background for the internal instability we are now witnessing. As for the effect of these riots on Israeli-Egyptian relations, political sources last night said that now, even if the two countries finalize the arbitration document over Tabah -- known as the compromis -- it will not have much value. Egypt will slow down the process of improving relations in light of events in Cairo, and, according to sources, it will be necessary to discontinue the ongoing pressure on Egypt in this regard. Likud sources last night voiced shouts of glee, sauing: Very soon there will be no one to return Tabah to. This was countered by knowledgeable sources who said: This is premature joy. Another view we heard last night is that the Iranian episode will not be repeated in Egypt, because the circumstances, the historical experience, and the people are utterly different. In short, Jerusalem has not changed its basic assessment that the Egyptian president will manage to overcome the situation in his country.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much.

Gen Levi: 'Wait and See'

TA270600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Report by David Essing]

[Excerpts] Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Moshe Sason, tonight told the Voice of Israel that all the embassy staff [in Egypt] is well. Chief of Staff General Moshe Levi told foreign correspondents in Tel Aviv that Israel was adopting a wait-and-see attitude on the situation in Egypt. In Gen Levi's words, we have to wait and see what is going on, and in order to find out whether and in what direction this is going to affect us. He added: We do not see any direct connection between what has happened there and our security position. A Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to comment, saying Israel does not interfere in other countries' internal affairs.

Egypt Sets Conditions for Sailing to Coral Island

TA260956 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 86 p 3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The Egyptian consul in Elat, Hasan 'Isa, yesterday conferred with a Foreign Ministry official in Jerusalem to clarify Egypt's conditions for the sailing and anchoring of Israeli yachts leaving from Elat. It has been learned that the Egyptian authorities insist that any Israeli yacht sailing forom the marina in Elat toward Coral Island should hand over the passenger list and a fee for each passengers on board to the consulate in advance. The consul made it clear that the conditions would not be altered or dropped. Yacht owners in Elat yesterday said that they would refrain from sailing to Coral Island until the current arrangements are cancelled.

Peres Interviewed on PLO, Lebanon, Soviet Jews

PM261421 Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Feb 86 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Jacques Amalric and Jean-Pierre Langellier — date and place not given]

[Text] Question: The "peace process" seems to have ground to a halt once again. As everybody knows, you are very anxious for negotiations to start. However, in precisely 230 days you will no longer be prime minister. What do you plan to do between now and then to break the deadlock?
[Peres] We have obtained some success, but we are also encountering some problems. We have achieved a fair degree of success in Lebanon and have made some progress with Egypt. We are now trying to make progress in the West Bank and Gaza. Unfortunately, as I have always said, nothing will come of talks with the PLO. Fortunately, that has been proved in the negotiations between King Husayn and 'Arafat and not in negotiations between us and 'Arafat -- in which case everybody would have blamed us. As he stated, the king made every effort to succeed, but 'Arafat proved once again that he is a man with whom it is impossible to negotiate. We must now think carefully about possibilities which have not yet been explored. I am not a government official. [sentence as published] The government does not depend only on Shim'on Peres. It pursues a policy decided by the two parties. We are going to continue the peace process.

Question: What does that mean in practice?
[Peres] For the time being the essential thing is to keep an open attitude both on the West Bank and toward Amman, to see whether the Palestinians in the territories are prepared to follow Husayn and find a formula making it possible to open negotiations in one way or another.

Question: How do you interpret King Husayn's recent speech breaking with Mr 'Arafat?
[Peres] It is an attempt to explain the real situation to the Palestinians and force them to make a choice: Either change their policy or change their representatives. The king made it clear that a change of representatives was perhaps necessary. In any case, it is up to them to decide. As in any political or economic effort, there may be setbacks. This does not mean that everything is over. Indeed, a full year has been wasted in rediscovering once and for all that the PLO is an organization which is devoting all its energy to its internal running, and is incapable of making any decision. Unfortunately, time is passing. The PLO is heading for a new tragedy. It is undermining the Palestinian people's cause.

Question: You are asking the Palestinians in the territories to take their affairs in hand. But you seem to be preaching in the wilderness. Nobody seems prepared to dissociate himself from the PLO. How do you plan to persuade them to follow your path?
[Peres] First, some have spoken out in public. But it is natural for it to take time to understand what is happening because the PLO is trying to make people think negotiations are continuing. It will take time for them to understand that the PLO has no solution. The PLO is leading the Palestinians to suicide. You can kill people by terror; you can kill a people by terrorism.

Question: Are the Palestinians in the territories afraid of the PLO?
[Peres] Yes, undoubtedly. They are terrorized. But there is more than just what people say; there are also signals which have to be deciphered, and which have to be read politically.

The Palestinian Dream

Question: Will not the PLO sooner or later have to be one of Israel's interlocutors in the search for a negotiated settlement?
[Peres] The king has tried to talk with the PLO. He has failed. This often happens with a people who have a dream and to fulfill that dream they provide themselves with an organization. Then that organization become stronger than the dream and finally replaces the dream.

Question: To encourage the PLO to show greater flexibility, the United States promised it participation in an international conference provided it recognized Israel. Were you informed of this change in Washington's position? Does it worry you?
[Peres] I do not think the Americans agree with the way in which King Husayn defines their position. The United States confirmed to us that it had not changed its position, and I have no reason to disbelieve them.

Question: The Americans' explanations are less clear than you say. The United States says in particular that because the attempt failed, it is better not to say any more about it.
[Peres] Judging from the king's speech things do not seem so clear. We do not know whether he is talking about a Palestinian delegation — or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation — to an

international conference. My impression is that he is referring to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Question: You talk of transferring some powers to the Palestinians in the territories. What do you mean by that?
[Peres] Some measures can be taken quickly. Others will take more time. The appointment of Arab mayors in some West Bank cities could happen fairly quickly. Economic and social development can also quickly be encouraged. We must continue to liberalize our policy in the territories.

Question: But is there not a fundamental contradiction between the notions of liberalization and occupation?
[Peres] Yes, of course. But only negotiations can overcome this contradiction. There are two things which I do not believe: The first is that the Palestinian problem can be solved by force, be it terrorist violence, or a war. Second, I do not believe that a solution can be imposed because the two superpowers are not prepared to use force to this end. They do not agree on what solution to impose. In these conditions how could they impose a solution on the countries concerned? The only solution therefore lies in negotiation. It can be public and rapid, or slow and gradual. I would prefer the first solution but this does not depend on us.

Changes in the Territories

Question: Is this contradiction which you recognize not even more obvious because your policy in the territories is in some respects even more repressive than the one which Likud pursued before you: deportations, administrative detentions, and so forth?
[Peres] I do not agree. There have been changes in the sphere of settlements for instance. How can you compare our policy with the previous one on this queston; which is the most important one? We have also appointed an Arab mayor in Nabulus, the biggest city in the West Bank. We have accepted economic reforms which enable capital to be injected at the rate of $1 million per day. We have settled conflicts on irrigation. We have authorized development plans, the establishment of industries, and the building of hospitals. It is true that at the same time our policy resembles the previous one in some sectors. But any Israeli government must take the necessary measures against terrorism. Do not confuse the necessary measures against terrorism and those taken to change a situation.

Question: You mentioned the appointment of the mayor of Nabulus. Did he not accept your offer only after receiving the PLO's go-ahead?
[Peres] The fact is that he is not a PLO member. We have not investigated his views and have never said to any Arab leader that he must share our ideas before he can negotiate with us.

Question: What do you think of the recent rapprochement between King Husayn and Syrian President al-Asad?
[Peres] It is essentially a tactical decision. The fact that the Syrian president postponed his visit to Amman means he was primarily anxious to secure the annulment of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Now that that has been achieved he is satisfied.

Question: So, is it a victory for Mr al-Asad?
[Peres] It is a defeat for the PLO. Al-Asad has a problem with his victories. He won a victory in Lebanon and look where that led. I do not know what you call a victory. Somebody can fail and claim victory. But a failure remains a failure.

Question: 'Arafat seems to be returning to Lebanon in force. What do you think of that?
[Peres] It worries me. But it is primarily Al-Asad's problem. He is more hostile to the PLO than anybody. We have left Lebanon but does that mean that country has overcome its problems?

Libya and Terrorism

Question: The Israeli Army has just carried out an operation to comb Lebanon for the two kidnapped soldiers. Did it result in victory or a defeat?
[Peres] Neither. That operation primarily demonstrated our desire to make every effort to save our soldiers' lives. Sometimes this may go beyond mere military necessity. The problem stems from the clash between a society like ours which respects human life and a society which believes that life begins after death. There are uncivilized societies within the civilized world.

Question: Who is responsible for the abduction of the two soldiers?
[Peres] We think it is the Hizballah, supported by the Iranians.

Question: Was Syria behind this operation?
[Peres] Relations between Syria and the Hizballah are very complex. On the one hand, the Syrians are very happy each time the Hizballah resort to terrorism against Israel. On the other hand, they are very worried that the Hizballah is strengthening their position in Lebanon. Life is not easy for Syria.

Question: Which do you think are the main centers of terrorism?
[Peres] Terrorism has two aspects: on the one hand the organizations as such, and on the other hand the countries which support them. Libya undoubtedly leads the states which shelter, train, finance and facilitate the action of terrorists. Look at the situation in Chad: Al-Qadhdhafi completely denies intervening in that country although Ndjamena has taken Libyan prisoners. Somebody who is prepared to kill lies even more boldly and it is ridiculous to ask him why he lies.

Question: During the recent interception of the Libyan plane which was flying to Damascus, did you have contacts, even indirect contacts, with Syria, to avoid misunderstandings?
[Peres] No. We forced the plane to land, searched it, and then it took off again. That is all. Nobody was harmed. The police sometimes arrest innocent people. They may spend the night in prison. I think that is unfortunate.

Question: Seen from here, people often have the impression that President Mubarak does not want real progress to be made in relations between Israel and Egypt. Is this your opinion?
[Peres] These relations are passing through a crucial period. Basically, Mr Mubarak is interested in maintaining the treaty which binds us to Egypt. But he has to take into account other considerations which I cannot judge. In addition, I cannot assess another person's temperament on the basis of mine. We will see. I hope there will be progress.

France and the Soviet Jews

Question: You welcomed Anatoliy Shcharanskiy following his release. Is this event a good-will gesture by the USSR toward Israel?
[Peres] I am vacillating between hope and reason. My hope is that this heralds a real change in Soviet policy. But one swallow does not make a summer.

Question: You were behind many rumors about a possible change in Moscow's policy on the Soviet Jews, reporting after the meeting with Mr Mitterrand the organization of an airlift by France to transport those wishing to immigrate directly to Israel. Can you clarify this point for us?
[Peres] As far as the Soviet authorities are concerned, it is one thing for the Jews to go to Israel, but it is a different matter if they go to the United States. And we can understand this. If somebody leaves the USSR for the United States, it means he considers America to be superior to the USSR. But if a Jew leaves the USSR for Israel, he is merely going to his homeland. We thought it useful, therefore, to inform the Soviets that the Jews ought to be able to go directly to Israel. I discussed this matter with President Mitterrand. He told me that if there were a transportation problem, France could deal with it. We also agreed that by making this offer public we would be sending an important signal to the Soviets.

Question: How did you know that Moscow was worried about that?
[Peres] I discussed this question with Soviet Foreign Miister Shevardnadze at the United Nations in the fall.

Question: But is it not very embarrasing for Moscow to allow Jews to go to Israel, in view of its Arab policy?
[Peres] The USSR takes three main considerations into account: its image in the world, East-West detente, and its Middle East policy. Jewish emigration is connected more with detente than with Middle East Policy.

Question: Are you worried about the growing influence of extreme right-wing ideas on your Israelis?
[Peres] I am not sure this is true. Nations, like individuals, have moods....

Question: Are you worried about the result of the forthcoming elections in France?
[Peres] Yes, of course. And you know where my sympathies lie. That is no secret.

Question: What advice would you give Mr Mitterrand on coalition?
[Peres] I would advise him to have a majority rather than a coalition if he has the choice.

MENA: Peres Interviewed on Negotiations With PLO

NC261056 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has declared that it was Jordan's King Husayn who asked the PLO to recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In an interview with the weekly *AKHIR SA'AH*, Peres said the Jordanian monarch requested that the PLO approve three points and then announce them. The first was a stop to terrorism and violence; the second was recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338; and the third was the initiation of direct negotiations.

Peres expressed Israel's readiness to negotiate with the Jordanians and with Palestinians who are not, as he put it, linked to terrorism. He pointed out that this was not the first time that certain extremist Palestinian leaders had inflicted a tragedy upon their people. Peres noted that they could have actually established a state in 1948 had they not rejected the idea.

In his interview, Peres claimed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat should respond to King Husayn's proposals, for he has no other option. He said that these proposals were submitted by Jordan and the United States. Peres asserted that terrorism has hurt the Arabs' political life more than that of Israel, and has achieved nothing in the process. He stated that Israel approved of an international forum in order to make things easier for King Husayn, and that there is no alternative for direct negotiations. Peres declined to answer a question on whether he agrees to negotiate with 'Arafat. He merely said: "He abandoned terrorism outside Israel, while approving it inside the State of Israel. This implies the killing of additional civilians."

In his interview, Peres touched on the issue of Dayr al-Sultan, describing it as a religious question. He added that it is not a dispute between Israel and Egypt, but one between the Coptic and Ethiopian churches in which Israel has no interest.

Peres Reiterates Right To Veto U.S. Stand on PLO

TA261843 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today replied to motions on the Knesset agenda regarding political negotiations. The prime minister said that Israel has the right of veto in the matter of contacts between the United States and the PLO. Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports on his remarks:

[Begin Peres recording] In our relationship with the United States — and I will accentuate this rule [klal] because it is a decisive one — it has been agreed that the representatives for a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to an international conference must be acceptable to the parties. Any other interpretation of our policy on this matter has almost no meaning. Some can say one thing; others can say something else. The Palestinian representatives must be acceptable to us. The Americans have said that if the PLO does three things -- to abstain from terrorism, recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and recognize Israel's right to exist — they can sit with the Palestinians. By the way, they said this on their behalf, not ours. What has changed? Everything is the same. That does not mean that we have agreed. We still have the right of veto. [end recording]

Shamir Denies Knowledge of Change in U.S. Policy

TA271200 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Feb 86 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] In the wake of reports from Washington about claims by the U.S. Administration that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was briefed on the contacts between the United States and King Husayn concerning the PLO, and that perhaps he did not understand the report he received, Foreign Ministry sources said last night that the foreign minister knew nothing about any change in U.S. policy.

Rabin Implies W. Bank PLO Can Join Talks

TA270706 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Feb 86 p 1

[Report by the Middle East staff]

[Text] Israel is willing to hold peace talks with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation even if it includes West Bank representatives identified with the PLO, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin hinted at a meeting with 30 prominent West Bankers held on Tuesday at the Civil Administration headquarters in Bet El.

A report of the meeting appeared in the East Jerusalem Arabic daily *AL-QUDS* yesterday. A participant, contacted by *THE JERUSALEM POST*, confirmed the paper's version of Rabin's remarks.

Rabin reportedly told the meeting that a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to peace talks could include "anyone" from the West Bank or Gaza Strip "without qualification." But representatives from the Palestinian diaspora could only participate if they did not belong to the PLO, Rabin was reported as saying.

Israel, Rabin said, wanted to negotiate directly with the delegation. It also insisted that the U.S. play a "special role" in the talks, and that U.S. participation would be conditional on the involvement of the USSR or an "international organization." Official Israeli sources declined to comment on the *AL-QUDS* report.

The meeting was also significant as being the first Rabin had held with West Bankers indentified with the PLO since becoming defence minister in 1984.

Rabin Leaves on European Tour 26 February

TA261009 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] This morning the defense minister departed by plane for a tour of several European countries. He will visit Belgium and Switzerland and meet with statesmen. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the prime minister will fill in for Minister Rabin.

President Herzog Congratulates Corazon Aquino

TA261213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] President Herzog has congratulated Corazon Aquino on her election to the post of president of the Philippines. Herzog praised the president and the Philippine nation for their adherence to democracy.

Demjanjuk To Arrive 28 February From U.S.

TA261535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Ex-Nazi criminal Ivan Demjanjuk will be flown to Israel on a direct flight the day after tomorrow and will arrive here just before the beginning of the Sabbath. Our correspondent in Washington reports that Demjanjuk is being held in New York in the meantime.

Likud Rejects Peres Call for Economic Growth Committee

TA261752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The Likud ministers have again rejected the prime minister's demand to set up a ministerial committee, headed by Mr Peres, to deal with economic growth. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that in this evening's meeting between the Likud ministers, it was decided that no changes should be made in the structure of the government or in the ministers' authority. The Likud ministers agree that steps must be taken against unemployment and to strengthen industry, and to do this the partnership in the unity government should be reinforced. However, the government must not deviate from the budget or channel additional funds into the economy.

Companies Permitted To Raise Funds in Capital Market

TA260736 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Feb 86 pp 1, 8

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] In a major reversal of economic policy, the Ministerial Economic committee yesterday decided to let private industry and Histadrut-owned firms raise $450 million in the capital market, at the expense of government revenue from bonds and, particularly, short-term bonds. The decision is expected to have major economic repercussions, for, if implemented, it will boost domestic demand, force the Bank of Israel to cut interest rates and push the government to print money.

The ministerial panel approved the move unanimously, 12 hours after Labour Party ministers had decided to freeze their demands for a Ministerial Committee on Economic Growth headed by Prime Minister Peres. The two decisions are seen as major steps toward resolving the crisis between the Likud and the Alignment.

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday welcomed the committee's decision, saying it was a step toward the economic growth

Peres is demanding. Committee members and other government officials said after the measure had been approved that they did not know how it would be implemented. The committee decided not to permit all the money to be raised immediately. To enable the private firms to raise capital, the government will approve bond issues, offering yields set by each firm.

Government officials said yesterday that the Ministerial Economic Committee had opened the door to sizeable money printing. "The government will be unable to meet its borrowing requirements, and will therefore have to print money," they said.

The officials said the state budget for the 1986-87 fiscal year, which starts on April 1, had already taken into account relinquishing $150m. which it planned to allow private firms to raise to compensate them for the stoppage of development loans. But the officials admitted they had no clear idea where the rest of the money would come from. But the officials noted that the committee had decided that the issuing of permits to raise money would also be conditional on factors such as the level of government spending and monetary injections, and on conditions in the capital market.

Most of the bonds issues will be reserved for industry, tourism and agriculture, the officials said. The Investment Centre is to be charged with recommending which firms are to be allowed to issue bonds.

Sources in the banking system yesterday told *THE JERUSALEM POST* that the Bank of Israel would have to bring down interest rates considerably in the near future if it wanted private firms to be able to raise the proposed sums. The sources said that the public would only buy the firms' bonds if they were to offer yields competitive with alternative investments. The monetary injection and the drop in interest rates are expected to boost economic activity, which is already showing signs of recovery from the mini-recession of the second half of 1985. Government sources say unemployment has recently dropped to about 5.5 per cent, from 7 per cent in previous months.

Soldier Dies in Clash With Terrorists in S. Lebanon

TA270609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] IDF soldier Corporal Ronen Malka From Migdal Ha'emeq was killed last night in a clash with a terrorist squad in southern Lebanon and another four soldiers were wounded. This was reported by the IDF spokesman. An IDF unit patrolling the western sector of the southern Lebanon security strip encountered a terrorist squad, and Ronen Malka was killed in the fire exchanges. The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the hospital.

IDF Closes Down W. Bank School Following Incidents

TA261159 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The Army this morning closed a girls' school in the Balatah refugee camp following a stoning incident. An IDF position nearby was pelted with rocks. Military sources say they were thrown from behind the walls of the UNRWA girls' school. Following the incident the students were sent home. So far there are no reports on whether the school will be allowed to open tomorrow.

Further on OAU Council of Ministers Meeting

OAU Secretary General Speaks

AB261624 Dakar PANA in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (PANA) — Mr Ide Oumarou, secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said in Addis Ababa today that he had been guided by the economic difficulties facing Africa in presenting a draft budget of 25,305,171 U.S. dollars for the financial year 1986/87.

He announced a series of measures to cut down expenditure. He said that with (?the OAU's present) resources some regional and sub-regional offices cannot be managed. Likewise the plethora of staff whose output was not commensurate with their renumerations posed another problem. He announced staff retrenchment by the abolition of posts kept vacant and by the redeployment of certain staff. He did not give the exact number of staff to be retrenched but OAU sources said that some hundred staff members will be affected. He also announced the closure of three regional offices whose theoretical function did not justify their continuation. "The objective is just to ensure common good and the desire to save our organization," he said.

Mr Oumarou said that despite all difficulties many member-states had fully or partially paid their contributions. "There have been improvements in our receipts. For instance, from 31 million dollars at the close of the financial 1984/85 our arrears have dropped to 19.3 million dollars until March last year," he added. He assured the council that he and his colleagues would fully carry out the important task entrusted to them in the realisation of the gravity of the situation facing member-states, the seriousness of the problems which have been besetting the continent, the concrete hopes of the peoples of Africa, all of which called for decisive and urgent initiatives.

The secretary general said at the outset that since he took office his first concern was the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the 21st summit. He expressed the conviction that Africa can be built and reborn only if all its sons are imbued by the same ideas for promoting the continent's cause.

Mr Oumarou referred to the series of meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the OAU in preparation for the United Nations Special General Assembly next May and stressed that Africa should not miss this exceptional opportunity open to it to make the problems of its development fully known to all peoples and continents. In this connection he mentioned the frank and effective cooperation between the Secretariats of OAU and ECA and underlined the need to stimulate and strengthen this cooperation. He said that the secretariats can only work for Africa intelligently and effectively if they avoid competition. He warned against wasting of Africa's resources as a result of uncoordinated activities and duplication. Only this way can Africa let the forthcoming UN General Assembly session know what it expects of it, he added. He noted that there is still much work to be done between now and May.

Mr Oumarou suggested that the question of Africa's foreign debt should be raised during the special session on Africa's critical economic situation although it will not consider this as a substantive issue since another international meeting on this specific question will be held later.

Further on Oumarou's Speech

AB261802 Dakar PANA in English 1710 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (PANA) — The OAU secretary general Mr Ide Oumarou today called on Africa to implement the plan of military action of the South-West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) by providing it with material and financial assistance.

Mr Oumarou was reporting to the OAU Council of Ministers on the activities of the organisation covering the period July 1985 to February 1986. He said that the Windhoek regime had continued to arrest SWAPO sympathisers and confine them to concentration camps. He added: "SWAPO leaders are looking to the OAU for material and financial assistance necessary to enable them to liberate themselves from colonial domination." He pointed out that the racist minority regime in South Africa has been reacting savagely to popular outcries of liberty by intensifying its tyranny on the people and by resorting to blackmail and aggression by destabilizing Frontline States, particularly Botswana and Lesotho.

Noting that Pretoria is facing ever-increasing opposition, he said that the positive response to the appeal of the African National Congress [ANC] to make apartheid unworkable and ungovernable was continued demonstrations against the diabolical system which the entire international community has condemned as a crime against humanity. He emphasised that the objective of the OAU is the dismantling of apartheid and the installation of a multiracial egaliterian system in South Africa. To this end sanctions against the Pretoria regime must be further intensified and must be translated into practical measures at the international conference on sanctions against South Africa to be held in June. He urged all member-states to participate appropriately and effectively to further harmonise Africa's actions.

Mr Oumarou highly lauded Angola for facing with courage and discipline Pretoria's aggression and external interference in its internal affairs. He said that the recent official visit of Jonas Savimbi to Washington is a challenge to live up to. He added that it is the duty of Africa to support Angola by all possible means at this juncture.

The secretary general hailed the joint communique issued in Djibouti by the leaders of Ethiopia and Somalia as a first step towards normalisation of relations in the Horn of Africa after over a decade of tension between the two countries. He commended the role of the current OAU chairman, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, in consolidating this new development. He also lauded the cease-fire reached between Burkina Faso and Mali through the intervention of the countries of the subregion and their bilateral decision to submit their dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Concerning the evolution of the situation in Uganda, he emphasised the need for harmony, domestic peace and national reconstruction and hoped that things are rapidly getting back to normal in that country. He said he regretted that the question of Comoros did not evolve as expected by the OAU because the meeting with the French authorities did not produce any fruitful results. He suggested that the OAU committee under the chairmanship of Gabon should meet during the current ministerial council session to come out with practical recommendations.

Mengistu Message Read

AB251857 Dakar PANA in English 1810 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 25 Feb (PANA) — Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam said in Addis Ababa today that it is incumbent upon the OAU and the international community as a whole to render financial, material, political and moral support to the Frontline States so that they can defend their sovereignty and independence.

In a message to the 43d ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers, which began (?its) annual budgetary session in Addis Ababa today, Mr Mengistu appealed to all peace-loving and democratic forces in the world to join Africa in its endeavour of assisting the national liberation movements achieve victory over racism and oppression.

Mr Mengistu's message was read out by the Ethiopian foreign minister, Mr Goshu Wolde. The Ethiopian leader is in the Soviet Union to attend the 27th congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Reviewing the tragic situation in southern Africa, Mr Mengistu said that the continued existence of apartheid in South Africa and its colonial subjugation of Namibia remains a grave political challenge facing Africa and the international community as a whole. He noted that about 30 million Africans are still languishing under the yoke of the abominable system of apartheid and the colonial domination of the racist regime in Pretoria. "As long as this anachronistic situation continues to persist in our continent, we can hardly say that Africa is really independent or has achieved its full dignity. The total liberation of Africa, (?the) speedy independence of Namibia and the total dismantlement of the apartheid system in South Africa, remains the cherished goal of those who value freedom and human dignity," he said.

The session was declared open by Prof Lameck Goma, foreign minister of Zambia.

The Ethiopian leader's message said that despite the callous acts of terrorism, ruthlessness and brutality of the apartheid regime, the oppressed peoples of both South Africa and Namibia are relentlessly waging a bitter struggle that is unprecedented in the history of the anti-colonial struggle of the continent. He added that no amount of state terrorism or emergency laws has been able to intimidate into submission the heroic people of South Africa. "The mass funeral of those fearless martyrs that we everyday see on our television screens attests to the firm determination and resolve of the black majority never to rest until the bastion of South African racism and oppression is destroyed."

Turning to Namibia, the Ethiopian leader said that the racists in Pretoria have been able to defy the will of the international community because of the collusion and all-round support they are receiving from their imperialist backers. He pointed out that it is these same quarters who have been in the forefront frustrating attempts to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the South African regime. He added: "It will be recalled that during the Security Council meeting last November, the United States and the United Kingdom vetoed the draft resolution which, among other things, called for the imposition of even selected sanctions against the Pretoria regime."

"The warm welcome accorded by the Reagan administration to the traitorous Jonas Savimbi, its commitment to provide military assistance to his counterrevolutionary movement, as well as its collusion with South Africa to destabilize the government of Angola and encroach on its sovereignty and territorial integrity, are further manifestations of Washington's policy of interference and duplicity in southern Africa."

He said that the apartheid regime, with the unrestricted support of imperialism, is also carrying out terroristic and destabilising activities against the Frontline States and other neighbouring states in the region by recruiting, training, arming and deploying bandits in order to force them to abandon their support to those struggling to achieve their inalienable right to freedom and human dignity.

"The latest raid into Maseru, the capital city of Lesotho, where fifteen innocent people were recklessly massacred and the repeated invasions of the independent and sovereign state of Angola is a vivid testimony of the racist regime's aggressive policy towards the legitimate governments of the region," he said.

The Ethiopian leader said: It is through the unity and solidarity forged by our organization that Africa has been able to challenge colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and imperialism. We have in that regard attained considerable results over the last two decades and, no doubt, there still remains a lot more to be done in the years to come. A strong OAU is, therefore, a must if Africa is to score further successes not only in the area of decolonization but also in the sphere of socio-economic development. Our organization must be financially and structurally sound and staffed not only by those with ample dedication but also by those who possess the requisite qualification in order to be able to discharge their duties with honour and distinction.

In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the appeal made by his excellency Abdou Diouf, the president of the Republic of Senegal and the current chairman of the OAU, to all member-states to pay their contributions to the Organization of African Unity and its subsidiary organs. All member-states have to honour their financial obligations without which our continental organization could not efficiently carry out the responsibilities entrusted to it.

The Ethiopian leader's message exhaustively dealt with the major problems facing Africa.

He said: "As you all know, our major preoccupation in recent years has become the socio-economic crises besetting our continent. The unprecedented economdic crisis facing the African Continent today is mainly rooted in the legacy of the exploitative system of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. The underdeveloped and fragile economy of Africa inherited from the colonial era has been further aggravated by the severe world economic crisis of the recent years which has more seriously affected africa than the other regions of the world. In addition to these, the widespread drought and other natural calamities that have struck many of our countries have further exacerbated the situation in our region.

He added that the critical situation in Africa is faced with calls for a much greater effort to cope with the immediate needs of African people and also to lay down the foundations for sustained economic and social development in accordance with the Addis Ababa declaration.

The (?progress) [words indistinct] summit of the OAU heads of state and government and the overall directives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

He said in Africa's efforts to improve the situation Africa must rely primarily on ourselves. Nevertheless, it should be recognized that the difficulties facing Africa are not only enormous but also complex, therefore Africa should call for the imaginative support of the international community to supplement its effort.

So far, he said the support rendered by the international community has been encouraging especially with respect to emergency assistance but much more would be needed in the area of medium and long-term development.

Chad Conflict Dropped From Agenda

AB261327 Dakar PANA in English 1314 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (PANA) — The Chad conflict on Wednesday dominated the 43rd OAU ministerial council talks currently taking place in Addis Ababa.

Libya has finally withdrawn its request for including Chad in the agenda of the ministerial session as a debate on the French aggression against Chad.

However, the Chad delegation was allowed to speak before the council, but the African ministers agreed not to include any debate related to the Chad conflict.

5 Mar Mini-Summit on Chad Announced

AB261500 Paris AFP in French 1344 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (AFP) — Ide Oumarou, the OAU secretary general, confirmed in the Ethiopian capital on Wednesday that an African mini-summit that will deal mainly with the Chadian crisis and which will comprise nine heads of member-states of the OAU Bureau, will take place in Addis Ababa on 5 March. This bureau was created during the 21st OAU summit in July 1985 at Addis Ababa.

Taking stock of the overall political situation on the continent in the introduction of his report to the 43d OAU ministerial council meeting, the secretary general pointed out that "the Chadian problem has once more become an OAU preoccupation." "New moves must be envisaged rapidly," he added, underlining that "the file is henceforth in the hands of Africans heads of state." "I am sure," he said, "that the bureau of the 21st summit, that the current OAU Chairman Abdou Diouf has convened to the Addis Ababa session on 5 March, will examine this question taking its current seriousness into account."

According to observers, this statement by the OAU secretary general constitutes the first official reaction of the OAU to the situation in Chad where fighting resumed on 10 February 1986 between the forces of the Ndjamena government supported by France, and that of the Transitional National Union Government backed by Libya.

Drafting Committee Appointed

AB261811 Dakar PANA in English 1735 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (PANA) — The OAU Council of Ministers today appointed a drafting committee of 14 member-states.

The members of the committee are Ethiopia, Somalia and Tazania (from East Africa), Algeria and Libya (from North Africa), Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Niger (from West Africa) Angola, Chad and the Congo (from Central Africa) and Mozambique and Zimbabwe (from Southern Africa).

Since Zimbabwe is a member of the current Ministerial Council Bureau, the southern African states were asked to nominate another country, which is expected to be done later in the day.

The council this morning heard the report of the secretary general, Mr Ide Oumarou, and spent the whole afternoon discussing the report in closed session.

Posts To Be Abolished Noted

AB261300 Dakar PANA in English 1120 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (PANA) — Fifty professional posts including 13 others are to be abolished within the OAU General Secretariat with effect from 1 June this year, a source close to the Addis Ababa-based headquarters said on Tuesday.

The same source added that the pan-Africanist organization's secretary general, Mr Ide Oumarou, has suggested that the continental body must close down three regional offices. He noted that the offices to be affected would be the Language Bureau (Kampala), Environmental Projects Office (Bangui) and the Accra-based office in charge of relations with two UN bodies FAO and WHO.

Nigeria's Onu Leaving OAU

AB261815 Dakar PANA in English 1758 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Feb (PANA) — OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou today announced that Dr Peter Onu, assistant secretary general for political affairs, had left his job as of 15 Feb after being recalled by the Nigerian Government.

He paid high tributes to Dr Onu who served the organisation for over 13 years. Mr Oumarou said: "He would be leaving a vacuum which would be difficult to fill. We owe him a lot for having saved the OAU image from the serious cricis that shook it."

Dr Onu leaves Addis Ababa tomorrow for his country. He served as interim secretary general of the OAU for two years when the organisation was facing serious financial and political problems.

Diouf, Sassou-Nguesso Discuss Chad in Dakar

AB252057 Paris AFP in French 1642 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Dakar, 25 Feb (AFP) — Current OAU Chairman Abdou Diouf today renewed his support for the mediation mission assigned to Congolese head of state Denis Sassou-Nguesso by the OAU for the settlement of the Chadian conflict.

Proposing the toast in honor of the Congolese president who is currently on an official visit to Senegal, the Senegalese head of state emphasized: "Despite the present deterioration in the situation (in Chad), we have a lot of hope in your action," adding "we encourage you to persevere in the path you have chosen, that is to say, find a framework for frank and loyal" discussions so as to enable the Chadians themselves to find a just and lasting solution to their problems.

For his part, the Congolese president said he was determined to "do everything possible to find a political solution to the Chadian conflict."

According to informed sources, the issue was at the center of the discussions held in Dakar between the two heads of state. They both asserted recently that it is only through consultation that the Chadian problem can be solved.

They tried to favor this consultation just a few days before the recent deterioration in the Chadian crisis by sending to Libya a delegation made up of the Senegalese and Congolese foreign ministers. This delegation met with Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and asked for his support for the resumption of dialogue among Chadians. It also held discussions with the members of the Chadian opposition, including Goukouni Oueddei.

BBC Interviews OATUU Secretary General on Walkout

MB260948 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 25 Feb 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There is not much unity in the Organization of African Trade Union Unity [OATUU] at the moment. A general meeting at OATUU's headquarters in Accra 10 days ago broke up in disarray when Nigeria led a walk out of 29 of the organization's 46 members. There had been quarrels over voting rights, over finance, and over OATUU's leadership. Particularly under fire has been the secretary general, Denis Akumu, who has been described as dictatorial. The Accra meeting followed one in January in Dakar which was sponsored by an American trade union movement, and Denis Akumu is defending himself by accusing the Americans of trying to undermine OATUU. On the line to Nairobi, Julian Borja asked Denis Akumu why he was making that accusation:

[Begin recording] [Akumu] Well, we have had serious quarrels with them over a number of fundamental issues. The American trade union organization externally almost supplements what the State Department is doing. Out in southern Africa they have been supporting the American State Department position. In Angola, for example, they are supporting Savimbi. We have had very serious quarrels on this. In South Africa they regard the ANC, PAC, and SWAPO as terrorist organizations. They have been visiting South Africa behind the international trade union agreement and no trade union would have anything to do with the racist regime. Now, they would like a leadership that would succumb, that would become an appendage to their policy.

[Borja] So, you are saying that the American influenced the so-called Dakar group to walk out of the Accra conference. What methods are you saying they used?

[Akumu] They used a lot of things, but the main thing is money. You know that the Americans always buy their way. They offer some people facilities, they offer as an inducement that they would build a labor college for them. They offer them different facilities.

[Borja] But included in this walk out group were countries like Angola, Zimbabwe, Algeria. I mean, you are not saying that they are American puppets, are you?

[Akumu] The case of Algeria is the geopolitics of Algeria, between Algeria and Libya; a Libyan man, a Libyan person, is our president. And number two, the Algerians have a little problem with me that over the years they have tried to get me and the executive to accept Polisario, which would have caused a number of rifts.

In the case of Angola we are surprised. We didn't take it up with the party because we have a very good position right from Neto days. Neto wrote us a very positive letter. We have fully supported the position (?they) have taken against Savimbi and against the AFL-FIO. On this one we have had very good relations with the party. We think if the individual that attended the meeting, and you never know, America sometimes reaches those individuals. [sentence as heard]

In the case of Zimbabwe, the trade union leader was with us, signed our paper, it was going to be official. It was a last minute change and of course there are people in Accra that were doing intensive lobby, but not trade unions, but from State Department.

[Borja] But hasn't this split come about because other member countries, quite independently of the Americans, are suspicious that OATUU is being bankrolled by Libya and that you, yourself, are as if you were in Libya's and Ghana's pockets?

[Akumu] Well, that cannot be true because the points are that we do get subvention from the Libyan trade union, varying from $70,000 to $100,000 a year, which appears in our accounts very, very candidly. But let me tell you an interesting thing. Libya has never dictated to us. Libya, for example, said we should have nothing to do with Egypt. We have Egypt in our Executive. So, Libya has never dictated our policy.

15 Countries Set Up African Press Association

AB261148 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1935 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 25 Feb (AZAP) — An African Press Association for Children (APAPE) [words indistinct] by the representatives of 15 African countries whose media organizations ensure regular coverage of all activities undertaken by UNICEF on the Continent.

Citizen Kitenda Ki Mata Ndombasi, the director of the Educational Radio and Television Division of the Zairian Radio and Television Office (Retalesco/OZRT) who represented Zaire at this meeting, told AZAP on Tuesday that the creation of this association is the consecration of the desire and determination that the African specialists in communications showed during the deliberations which took place during the seminar UNICEF organized in September 1985 in Montpellier (France) to view the problems of communications in Africa.

The constitutive assembly which met in Lome, Citizen Mata Ndombasi said, has enabled the new association to have its statutes, an internal regulation as well as the creation of its main organs, that is: a general assembly, executive bureau, commissions, national branches, honorary members, and associated members.

The new association, which has its temporary headquarters in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, is an apolitical, nongovernmental, and nonprofit organization. It is aimed at contributing to the promotion of a better health care delivery system and the well-being of families in general and of children in particular through an active support of the activities of UNICEF and other development organizations. Its objectives can be summed up in four main points:

— To support the programs and activities initiated by UNICEF or any other organization for development in the African member-states of the association by covering, in their media or through other media mandated by them, the UNICEF activities by assuring the mobilization and motivation of the pilotgroups which will benefit from the programs of health and development.

— To create in each member-country local and sub-local branches regrouping communication specialists (journalists, producers and technicians) who are interested in development projects.

— To promote the exchange of experience between the various members through meetings and working visits.

— To promote permanent training sessions for its affiliated members.

To this end, the constitutive assembly has mandated the participants of the meeting to create local branches in their respective countries.

At the end of the deliberations, an executive bureau was elected for a 2-year term, with a maximum of 2 terms. Here is the list of the members of this bureau:

Chairman: Quam Sodji (Togo);
Secretary General: Jean Dewandu Azahhoue (Benin);
First Deputy Secretary General: Guy Noel Samovhey (Congo);
Second Deputy Secretary General: Brigitte Obrou (Ivory Coast);
Treasurer: Henri Seni (Burkina Faso).

The next general assembly of the APAPE is scheduled to take place on 11 September 1986 in Abidjan. This date coincides with the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of UNICEF. The communication specialists of the following countries participated in the Lome deliberations. They are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Congo, Ivory Coast, Guinea Comoros, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad, Togo, and Zaire.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Syria, USSR 'Next Month'

LD261429 Kuwait KUNA in English 1013 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 26 (KUNA) — Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will visit Syria and the Soviet Union next month, daily *AL-ITTIHAD* Wednesday reported. On his way back from the Soviet Union and after touring a number of East European countries, Al-Qadhdhafi will make a second stop in Syria, the daily added.

Reportage on Jallud's Meetings During CPSU Congress

Received by Castro

LD270004 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro this evening in Moscow received Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. During this meeting, which took place where the Cuban President is staying while in Moscow, the participants discussed the existing cooperation between the two countries and the means to bolster it. Issues of mutual interest and the U.S.-Zionist threats and provocations were reviewed. Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud conveyed the greetings of the Arab Libyan people and the brother leader of the revolution, affirming his country's solidarity and its stand by the Arab Libyan people in their brave confrontation with U.S. imperialist provocations.

Meets Ethiopia's Mengistu, Ba'th Official

LD262204 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday evening in Moscow received Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party. During this meeting, the Arab situaiton and the imperialist U.S. and Zionist provocations against the Libyan Arab people and the Arab nation were discussed.

The Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam yesterday evening in Moscow received Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. During the meeting they reviewed the situation in the African Continent and the relations of cooperations between the two fraternal countries as well as international issues of mutual interest.

Romania's Radu Presents Message to People's Congress

AU261213 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1207 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli (AGERPRES) 26/2/1986 — On behalf of the Romanian Communist Party and of its General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu, the participants in the proceedings of the twelfth session of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah were addressed a warm friendly salute by Constantin Radu, CC of RCP secretary, RCP representative to the congress.

Highlighting with satisfaction the fine ties of cooperation established between Romania and Libyan Jamahiriyah in the spirit of equality, indepndence and mutual advantage, the speaker showed that those links were underlain by the understandings convenanted during the numerous meetings between President Nicolae Ceausescu and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September 1 Revolution of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and met mutual interests of promoting knowledge and understanding between the two peoples.

The speaker stressed that Romania and Libya firmly declare for all peoples to work for the resumption and consolidation of detente policy, for their independent development, sheltered from any foreign interference and for the promotion of a durable peace the world over.

Considering that the vital problems of our times are the safeguarding of peace and the achievement of disarmament, Romania has consistently worked for elimination of the war danger, the reduction and cessation of the arms race, of the nuclear one in particular, the RCP representative showed.

The RCP and Romanian state, the speaker went on, have consistently worked for a political settlement of all litigious issues and conflictual states of affairs in various parts of the world, for the elimination of the use and threat of force from interstate relations, the safeguarding of peoples' liberties and the self-reliant making of their destinies, in accordance with their own options. We energetically condemn the shows of force, the dangerous practices that put the states' national sovereignty in jeopardy and run counter the elementary norms of the international law, considering that they bore negatively on the situation in various regions and the world over.

Romania also declares for the initiation of resolute actions toward liquidating underdevelopment and building a new international economic order, on equitable and democratic bases, assessing that this is the sole way of overcoming the world eocnomic crisis and promoting a faster progress of developing countries.

Received by Light Industries Secretary

LD262202 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Jumada Thani 16, Feb 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the People's Committee for Light Industries met yesterday Mr Constantin Radu, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party who is currently on a visit to Al-Jamahiriyah.

At this meeting, it was explained in detail to Mr Radu the democratic experiment practised by the Libyan Arab people through the Basic People's Congresses and People's Committees. The two sides have also discussed at their meeting the bilateral relations between the two friendly peoples and ways for promoting them in all fields.

MAURITANIA

Interior Minister Receives PDRY Minister

AB251651 Paris AFP in French 1345 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Nouakchott, 25 Feb (AFP) — A South Yemeni envoy, Mr 'Abd al-Ahmad Salam, who is minister of justice, has been received by the Mauritanian Government, it was learned from official sources in Nouakchott on Tuesday. The South Yemeni minister, who was received by the Mauritanian minister of interior, acting for the head of state who is visiting China, told the Mauritanian authorities that the situation was normal in South Yemen, and that security there was now ensured, the same source added.

1986 Emergency Food Aid Needs Outlined

AB211040 Paris AFP in French 1841 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Nouakchott, 20 Feb (AFP) — Mauritania has estimated its need for emergency food aid at 100,000 tons of cereals for 1986.

Mauritania's emergency plan, which was presented to financial backers on Thursday by Major Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Deh, permanent secretary to the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN), puts the country's need in cereals at 98,321 tons. It will also require 9,913 tons of powered milk, and 9,428 tons of butter. This plan, which consists of two parts — one for emergency aid and the other for development projects aid — gives priority to the protection of crops. The plan also provides for the training of farmers in the use of phyto-sanitary products, as well as giving a new impetus to the agricultural production through a market gardening program. The government, Ould Deh pointed out, will pursue its efforts to give priority to the "Food for Work" projects, in order to stimulate production.

Concerning animal breeding, the pasture land should be satisfactory this year, Ould Deh stated. Efforts will center on the fight against animal diseases and the improvement of the cattle situation in the northern part of the country, the worst drought-hit area of Mauritania. Finally, the plan provides for the setting up of community feeding centers and health centers.

SUDAN

Siwar al-Dhahab Receives Ceausescu Message

JN261739 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum Feb 26 (SUNA) — Chairman of the Transitional Military Council Gen. Siwar al-Dhahab received here a written message from President Nicolae Ceausescu which was conveyed by Romanian Deputy Premier Ion Totu. Totu who was today received by Gen. Siwar al-Dhahab said that the message concerned bilateral relations. During the reception Gen Siwar al-Dhahab expressed respect of the Sudanese people to the vital assitance extended by Romania. Moreover the Romanian guest has expressed satifaction over development of ties between Sudan and Romania. Deputy Premier Ion Totu is currently in visit to Sudan heading a Romanian delegation to participate in the meetings of the joint Sudanese Romanian ministerial committee.

Talks With Romanian Officials Begin

JN261523 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA) — The joint Sudanese-Romanian ministerial committee began its meetings here this morning under Samuel Aru, Sudanese deputy prime minister, and Ion Totu, Romanian deputy prime minister and economic minister. The two officials delivered a speech at the beginning of the session in asserting both sides' concern for developing relations between the two countries — relations which witnessed continued growth since the first protocol was signed 10 years ago.

The two officials noted that Sudanese-Romanian relations are an example of relations based on mutual respect and common interest. They stressed that the annual meeting of the joint ministerial committee is a good opportunity to assess what has been achieved during the past year and to renew and amend agreements in accordance with economic and political developments. Joint economic, trade, political, and cultural committees were formed. These committees will meet separately to present results of their meetings to the expanded meeting of the ministerial committee on Friday. The Romanian side consists of the deputy foreign trade minister and a number of officials in the energy, mining, and foreign trade sectors. The Sudanese side consists of the Finance Ministry under secretary and a number of officials in the planning, economic, energy, and mining sectors.

Defense Minister Receives Syrian Military Delegation

JN251457 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (SUNA) — Defense Minister Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah Muhammad has received two messages from General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, and Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on developing bilateral relations in the service of the Arab nation's issues.

Maj Gen 'Uthman 'Abdallah received here today Brigadier General 'Abd al-Salam [words indistinct], head of the Syrian military delegation now visiting Sudan, in the presence of His Excellency Mustafa 'Amran, Syrian charge d'affaires in Khartoum. The Syrian military delegation arrived here the day before yesterday within the first phase of Syrian military technical assistance to the Armed Forces.

Decree Issued Increasing Hard Currency Prices

JN261027 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 26 (SUNA) — The committee entrusted to look into the dealing in the foreign currency yesterday issued a decree increasing hard currencies prices at dutyfree shops.

According to the decree which was published today by the daily *AL-AYYAM* issued today, the dollar's buying price has been set at (425) piasters in the duty free shops while its official price has been left as it is (two pounds and half) in the banks. Other hard currencies prices were also increased.

Chairman of the committee Ahmad Sulayman pointed out that the committee decision will change in light of information about the inflow of hard currency through the committee. The committee chairman Ahmad Sulayman pointed out that the committee has taken this decision in bid to combat and eliminate the black market dealing in hard currency in addition of encouraging the expatriates to transfer their savings through the official channels instead of resorting to any illegal ways. Moreover, he said the decision has been taken to make control over dealing in hard currency.

Relief Agencies Allowed To Stay Until 15 Apr

JN231211 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 23 (SUNA) — The three relief agencies which had been orered to leave the country for involvement in the secret airlifting of the Falasha Jews to Israel, have been permitted to carry out their activities in the country, a press report said here today.

The mouthpiece of the Sudanese Communist Party *AL-MAYDAN* said in its issue today quoting the Attorney General 'Umar 'Abd al-'Ati that the three agencies which hold contract for resettling some refugees and were committed to obligation with some other governments requested some time to carry out these tasks. The committee assigned to reconsider the works of the relief agencies handled the requests and offered the three agencies a period of grace until April 15.

The agencies which are the Joint Voluntary Agency, Intergovernmental Catholic Migration Commission and International Commission for Migration had been ordered to leave the country last Nov when witnesses in the Falasha trial repeatedly mention that they had been rounding up the Ethiopian Jews Falashas from refugee camps in eastern Sudan before being ferried to Israel through Europian airports.

12 Numayri Family Members Arrested 21 Feb

JN220948 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 22 (SUNA) — The security authorities arrested yesterday a group of twelve persons from the family of deposed Numayri for their circulation of publications in the national capital Khartoum insulting the Transitional Military Council, the Cabinet and the National Alliance for the Salvation of the Country. The arrested group also were accused of writing slogans on the walls which called for the return of ousted Numayri, Interior Minister Gen. (Police) 'Abbas Madani said to the daily *AL-SAHAFAH* in its today's issue. Indicating that the activities of the said group were monitored by the security authorities from the beginning Gen 'Abbas said that investigation began yesterday with the arrested group.

SPLA Radio: Twik Twik Battalion Shells Rumbek

EA241823 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Rumbek town has come under heavy shelling for the second time in 7 days by the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Twik Twik battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Aweid Akout.

According to Radio SPLA correspondent in Rumbek, the second shelling, which took place on 22 February 1986 was coupled with a raid against the army and police headquarters [and] was conducted as a reprisal against frequent government army provocations against the SPLA and the citizens alike.

Our correspondent says that except for buildings made of concrete, most of the houses have been reduced to ashes as a result of Twik Twik's raid. The families of policemen and prison warders now fighting alongside government troops in Rumbek are facing starvation. According to our correspondent, the food situation in general has become critical ever since the provincial authorities decided to stockpile the food for their own use — the little that was flown into the town shortly before the SPLA started operations there.

Our correspondent, however, said that 14 policemen, prison warders and game wardens have defected to the SPLA with their rifles. Most members of the government regular forces in Rumbek would desert their positions and join the SPLA if they could get the opportunity, the correspondent concluded.

SPLA Radio: 13 Killed

EA241826 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Thirteen government soldiers were killed and many seriously injured in a raid on Gogrial garrison by the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces on 19 February 1986.

According to Radio SPLA correspondent in western Bahr el-Ghazal, the raid on Gogrial garrison was launched by the commander of the fourth company of Twik Twik Battalion, Capt Akwei Akwei Ajow assisted by 1st Lieutenant Francis Bol Ayom.

SPLA Radio: 60 Soldiers Killed in Upper Nile Battle

EA262055 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Reports from Upper Nile says a special Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] force of Wolf Battalion fought a fierce battle with Siwar al-Dhahab's army at Wat bridge between Ler and Adok on 20th February 1986.

According to our correspondent accompanying Wolf Battalion, the battle began at 10:00 am and lasted until 6:00 pm. Twenty-nine government soldiers were killed and 32 others were drowned in the river and scores of them were wounded.

Over 39 Government Soldiers Reported Killed in Ambush

EA262104 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] forces of Hadid and Cobra Battalions, under the overall command of Major Kuol Manyan, have made another successful ambush on Siwar al-Dhahab's forces at Malwal-(Gorber) on Juba-Bor road on 22 February 1986, the second in 2 days. One armored personnel carrier and one Landrover station wagon with all the soldiers on board were destroyed and two commercial lorries were also destroyed. Over 39 government soldiers were killed and many of them were wounded. According to our correspondent in Bor, many families and children of the government soldiers were feared to have died in the fight.

Informed sources told a Radio SPLA correspondent in the area that the government soldiers were misinformed by the junta that the SPLA have withdrawn from Bor and Kongor and that the schools and hospitals there were operational. This, according to our correspondent, made some government soldiers to believe and bring their families with them.

TUNISIA

Essebsi Discusses Relations With Gabonese Minister

LD260914 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] This morning, Beji Caid Essebsi, minister of foreign affairs, held discussions with Bongo, Gabonese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, on bilateral cooperation which will be further defined during Bongo's visit.

The two ministers chaired a working session which was attended by the delegations from both countries including Salah Ben Mbarka, minister of finance; and Ahmed Ben Arfa, secretary of state for international cooperation.

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR Delegation

Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD262129 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] A ceremony was organized yesterday at the headquarters of the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, during which Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Ben Arfa and Deputy Chairman of the Soviet State Committee For Foreign Economic Relations Yevgeniy Osadchuk signed the minutes of the meetings of the first session of the Grand Joint Tunisian-Soviet Government Commission whose works started on 19 February.

Among the main results achieved in this first session were agremeents specially related to the strengthening of cooperation in the fields of hydraulic power, trade, mining, and industry.

Meets With Mzali

LD262130 Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 25 Feb (TAP) — Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Mohamed Mzali received Yevgeniy Osadchuk, deputy chairman for the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations yesterday afternoon. Osadchuk was accompanied by Polad-Zade, first deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, at the government palace in Kasbah. Osadchuk is visiting Tunisia for the first time on the occasion of the grand Tunisia-USSR joint commission. He stated that he had informed the prime minister of the results of the commission, which will constitute "a solid basis for tightening the two countries' economic and technical cooperation links in all fields." The meeting took place in the presence of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Ben Arfa, and Vsevelod Kizichenko, the Soviet Union's ambassador in Tunis.

Security Agreement Signed With Spain

LD262150 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1100 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Last night Spain and Tunisia signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in security, which envisions greater collaboration in police training, exchange of information and coordination in the anti-terrorist struggle. The undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior, Rafael Vera, who signed the agreement for the Spanish side in Tunis, denied that he had directly discussed with the Tunisian Government its willingness to receive ETA members expelled from France.

Opposition Announces Solidarity With UGTT

PM261601 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Feb 86 p 6

["M.D." dispatch: "Five Opposition Parties Show Solidarity With UGTT"]

[Text] Tunis — The formation of a Committee of Solidarity with the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] and for the Defense of Democratic Freedom was announced in Tunis on Saturday 22 February by five opposition parties: the Communist Party, the Movement of Social Demcorats, the Popular Unity Movement, the Progressive Socialist Movement, and the Islamic Tendency Movement. As they were unable to use the Labor Exchange for a meeting, as requested, the opposition leaders were forced to comment on their initiative at a press conference held in Communist Party headquarters. They explained that the committee they have just formed comprises their parties' secretary generals and their goal is to make Tunisian and international public opinion aware of attacks on trade union and democratic freedoms which, they say, the government is making with increasing frequency.

In a joint communique, the opposition particularly stressed "the deterioration in the political, economic, and social situation" in the country which it attributes mainly to the authorities' determination to "control" the people's representative organizations or to "push them to the fringe."

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Meets With Dos Santos, Jallud in Moscow

EA262043 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1900 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] In Moscow, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam has met with various heads of state and representatives, including Comrade Eduardo dos Santos of the Republic of Angola and Brother Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan People's Bureau

During his talks with Comrade Eduardo dos Santos and Brother Maj Jallud, the comrade secretary general discussed the friendly relations between those countries and revolutionary Ethiopia, and current continental and international issues. Present during the meetings were: Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, secretary of the WPE Central Committee; Comrade Mengistu Gemechu, member of the WPE Central Committee and special advisor to the comrade secretary general; and Comrade Nesibu Taye, member of the WPE Central Committee and revolutionary Ethiopia's ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Mengistu Addresses Constitution Drafting Body

EA231510 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1714 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Address by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, to the opening session of the Constitution Drafting Commission; date and place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] Dear members of the Constitution Drafting Commission: As you know, the aim of establishing a government directly controlled by the working people was the fundamental issue raised by our revolution from its very eruption. All the steps taken during the revolutionary process and their results have been directly or indirectly linked with this fundamental issue.

I feel greatly honored to announce that this commission, established to draft the constitution, which will make a direct and fundamental contribution toward the inception of the historic task of bringing into being the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] as the complete reply to the question of power, starts work today. [applause] I congratulate you, the members of the commission, on your election to participate in the preparation of a constitution which will form the legal basis for the people's total control of power and the establishment of the peoples political system for which many of the dear children of our historically rich country died. [applause]

It is expected that the product of this commission's work will create conditions more conducive to orientating revolutionary Ethiopia toward a stage of stable development and progress. It is therefore possible to assert that the great task of this commission is an additional demonstration of our country's particular nature and historical evolution. The inception of the commissions work is prime evidence of the fruitfulness of the preparations so far made to establish the PDRE. Inasmuch as this clearly and tangibly opens the door toward systematic activity to form the republic, it must be given special attention not only as a political objective and symbol but as a political fact.

Dear members of the Constitution Drafting Commission: Each of the governments in the history of Ethiopia, from the preaxumite period, and especially the strong equal government of the 19th century up to the eruption of our revolution, had its own place in our country's political history. In spite of the fact that the ancient governments had not written constitutions codifying the administration of the society, history tells us that they had systems emanating from (?beliefs) and experience, which guaranteed power and more or less performed the role of constitutions. In northern Ethiopia in particular famous ancient governments had gods, (?desires), and commandments which were the sources of power. It is also known that the emperors who reigned from time to time in various parts of Ethiopia and various other rulers used spiritual methods and related social regulations to guarantee their supremacy.

It will be recalled that the power of the feudal government which reigned in our country for centuries was that of absolute monarchy. This rule of monarchy was, especially in the beginning, a rule coinciding with numerous power struggles, which did not have any [word indistinct] and its regulations and systems varied from place to place. At all events, by virtue of the strong monarchs who emerged victorious from time to time, the centralization of government gained root until at the beginning of this century the feudal system emerged in its [word indistinct] form.

A constitution drawn up for the first time in Ethiopia's history in 1923 gave this absolute feudal government a legal basis of (?existence). By thus guaranteeing the supremacy of the emperor and the feudal power, that constitution clearly provided that the broad masses should not engage in any kind of political participation.

Due to changing conditions and in order to gain acceptability for the rule of the monarchy, particularly with regard to foreign relations, the constitution was improved in 1948. This constitution, however, did not differ greatly in basic content from the one of 1923. It will be recalled that above all, even in its new form, the articles dealing with the rights and duties of nationalities were not properly applied.

It was laid down, for example, that the people could elect their representatives. This was always stressed as a democratic (?value) charitably provided by the goodwill of the rule of monarchy. But inasmuch as one of the requirements for eligibility to stand for election was ownership of fixed and movable assets, the broad masses were generally compelled to elect members of the ruling class, who were the opponents of the broad masses. The people were thus used as tools to create the legal conditions for the protection of the interests of the ruling class. This constitution, which, in both content and application, ran counter to the wishes and interests of the broad masses, remained the basis of power for the backward feudal system until it was suspended by the provisional military administrative council after the victory of our popular revolution.

In spite of the fact that our country, Ethiopia, is one of the world's ancient countries and has a prestigious history, its people were left open to poverty and suffering. The constitution issued during the later feudal period exacerbated and made more unbearable the working people's life by strengthening the legal nature of the yoke of the rule of the monarchy. It was that which gave birth to our revolution.

Although our revolution made the abrogation of the constitution which gave the royal family power in perpetuity its main task, it has not been a revolution which proceeded without any laws. The revolutionary government has issued and implemented various policy directives, decrees, and legal documents of a fundamentally legal content. But now taht the working people have reached the stage where they are capable of controling power directly and conditions prevail under which they can govern themselves, it has become necessary to bring into being through consensus and the full participation of the workers a constitution able to guarantee the situation totally. What makes this commission's mission very weighty is that it has been charged with the responsibility of drafting a people's document which will, for the first time in our country's history, totally guarantee popular power.

Dear Compatriots: The determined generations of each century have made their sacrifices for the survival of our motherland and its long history. Admitting its indebtedness by steadfastly standing for prestigious goals is a duty expected from every generation. The responsibility of this generation is greater than those of all the others. That of our generation is not only to be proud of our heritage and passing on what has been entrusted to us to the next generation. Ours is the historic duty further to enrich whatever is good within a new framework, to eliminate whatever is not beneficial, and especially to come up with a new legacy and make the necessary sacrifices for a better life for the next generation, our children, and all the future citizens of this country. This is a duty we must carry out without any hesitation.

Accordingly, the popular victories we have won so far by virtue of the heroism and love of independence we have inherited from our fathers and forefathers clearly testify to our capability of discharging the responsibilities with which we have been entrusted. There is no doubt that in the light of the results and experiences during our past struggle we shall emerge victorious in carrying out the important task ahead.

Inasmuch as wll the fundamental changes in our society have been brought about with the active participation of the broad masses, we now once again totally rely on the working people. Hence, we are strongly confident that through the direct participation of the people we will bring into being a peoples democratic government in our Ethiopia, a government which will be the manifestation of the power of the people [applause]. This confidence arises out of our total belief that history is made by the people and by properly understanding the path of struggle we have traversed and the stage we have reached.

Having succeeded in tis work of leading the working people and creating favorable conditions and platforms for broader participation, the PMAC has been able to transform the objective realities which necessitated the centralization of power. It has thus been competently discharging its historic responsibilities in an exemplary fashion. It has brought this generation to an unprecedented stage of historic responsibility by destroying the old system and building the foundations of a new one. We are thus Marching forward, as can be clearly seen in the leadership of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] and the people's prerogative and full participation and the road towards the establishment of the government of the working peoples has been opened.

Dear members of the Constitution Drafting Commission: We do not need to repeat the fact that the aim of our revolution is to eliminate from our land the exploitation of man by man, to eliminate the conditions whereby one lives from the labor of others, and to make all the beneficiaries of their labor. We made sacrifices not merely to replace the old system with a new one but to transform its core by eliminating exploitation and oppression and bringing about equality and common prosperity. When we destroyed the feudal rule of monarchy our aim was not to institute other feudal rules which were only different in form. Nor was it, as others believed, to bring in a capitalist system by grouping together the messengers of exploitation — all of whom stand for exploitation — in the name of the people and democracy. Accordingly then, even though the sacrifices required would be greater, our goal from the very beginning was to establish a government standing for equality, justice and common prosperity. The aim of the establishment of the PMAC was to bring this popular and historic goal to realization. Accordingly, in the light of this genuine objective, after many a problem and trials, we have now reached the stage at which we can establish a government to enable the people to (?live from their labor), one which represents the people and stands for and by them.

As it is now clear how much we hae had to do and what kinds of difficulties we have had to overcome to reach this stage, I do not think it is necessary to dwell on it at length. It will be recalled that during the pre-revolutionary period, the working people were denied the fundamental rights of consciousness and organization and were regarded as if nature had decreed for them to be ruled as if they could not govern themselves.

It is true that inasmuch as they had been completely denied these rights, they did not [word indistinct] methods of administration. That is why during the infancy of the revolution various sides tried to gain power in the name of the working people. Today it would be impossible for pretenders to gain power in the name of the workers and place on them once again the yoke of exploitation.

The broad masses are now in a position to prove by their deeds that they are capable of governing themselves and fully controlling power. The workers' horizon of understanding has widened and they have also joined forces in organizational (?structures) which will help them carry out their wishes. What is left now to guarantee their supremacy is the taking of the last decisive step.

All the slave governments, feudal and aristocratic governments, and capitalist governments which emerged throughout history have presented themselves as standing for truth and justice, but their actions have belied this. There is no instance — and can never be — where the slave government has stood for the slaves, the feudal government for the tenant farmers, or the capitalist for the workers. Generally speaking, no government of minority rulers has stood up for the majority. Only workers governments, established in accordance with the aims of socialism, stand for genuine equality. Such a government is one which, in order to realize the wishes of the working people, is integrated in the popular political system together with the vanguard party and the mass organizations in which the people have consolidated their power, one which responds to the wishes of all the working people.

The government to be established in revolutionary Ethiopia at the will of the people and with their participation will be such a one and it will exist to serve the people. Accordingly, the main responsibility of the peoples representative administration bodies to be set up at every level, centrally and in the various parts of the country, will be to direct and administer political, economic and social affairs and cultural activities.

In the PDRE, the peoples representatives will not leave the people, but will mostly be with the pepole, work with them, keep their day-to-day contacts with them and be controlled by them. The fundamental characteristic which distinguishes a government of the people lies in ensuring that the representatives of a particular area come from among the people, are ruled by the principle of the supremacy of the people and are not superior to the people.

Dear commission members: The measure of the tangible fruits and our struggle to free the country from backwardness and lead the people towards a comfortable life will be determined by the depth and breadth of the economic and social changes made. The decisive criterion of results is the ability to formulate correct policies and organize and agitate a conscious popular power based on a scientific understanding of objective realities.

As has been repeatedly stressed, the guarantee for the victory of our revolution lies not only in the nobility of its cause but also in the existence of a scientific leadership and in the participation of the people. Scientific leadership will be strengthened jointly with the part's continuing efforts to carry out its mission of leadership correctly. Broadening the people's participation in the struggle is also closely connected with this. The increased participation of the workers is demonstrative of the political maturity of the working people as well as of the economic and social conditions on which it has been based. This is so because (?the stage of political consciousness) is based on and reflects the tangible results of revolutionary activities. Hence, the growth and expansion of people's participation in the revolutionary process will not only come about merely because it is needed but also in response to the demands of objective realities.

As noted earlier, by virtue of the social and economic changes introduced by the achievements of the consecutive revolutionary steps taken, popular platforms have been created from which it has been possible to agitate the working people to give depth and breadth to the changes made.

Generally to protect the victories won by the revolution and to bring about further victories, it is essential to effect higher structural changes from time to time and as an overall result of this process, the time to establish the republic which will complete the popular political system is approaching.

The urgent task of establishing a PDRE will help to complete the process of eliminating the old and retrogressive government structure. It will also create favorable conditions for enriching and strengthening democratic forums, popular working methods and [word indistinct] experience which we have gained through our struggle. The democratic nature of the new government will be demonstrated by the fact that its structures will be in accordance with the peoples wishes, by the (?coordination) and support of its executive bodies, and by step-by-step implementation of the rights of the nationalities to self-administration.

The republics main mission will be to ensure that workers of all nationalities strengthen the relationship with each other — one based on equality. It will be to coordinate the workers strength and wealth to promote their common progress and prosperity. In general, the PDRE will be organized and based on the principles of democratic centralism, proletarian internationalism, and socialist justice. It will stand for the implementation of the WPE program and various policies. Hence, it will make an important contribution toward the completion of the national democratic revolution, lay the necessary material and technical foundation for realizing socialism, and complete the struggle we have embarked on. This it will do by activating the workers.

The struggle to build a popular new system in our country will bring the workers closer to the powers who stand on the international level for socialism, social progress, and peace and make them a strong part of the world revolutionary process. The republic's foreign policy will be based on proletarian internationalism and will promote the policy of peaceful coexistence with countries which follow a different social and political system.

The formation, organization, and structure of the PDRE and its tasks and duties cannot fundamentally be viewed in isolation from the role of the workers who are the objective of the revolution and its driving force. All the ideas on the republic which we mention are based on this realization. Nevertheless, there must be a constitution which will correctly demonstrate the role of political bodies within the community and their relationship with each other, decide on the rights and duties of nationalities, and be the basis for detailed directives on work and other relationships.

From now on the legal basis of political and ideological policies will be set out in this constitution. Special emphasis was laid on the preparation of this historic document as a result of a correct understanding of its decisive contribution. As you know, detailed and extensive studies were carried out by the Institute of Nationality Studies. These will be the stepping-stone to the establishment of the constitution. Various activities have already been carried out in this respect thanks to the close attention of the revolutionary government and COPWE and later on through the leadership of our party. [words indistinct] was formulated for the (?establishment) of a constitution for the new Ethiopia by assessing the situation with the nature and goal of our revolution in mind. So, this Constitution Drafting Commission is not starting its work from scratch but its studies are [word indistinct] gained through hard work. Since this is the situation in which the commission starts its work, we believe that it will carry out its task quickly and complete its mission successfully.

Dear commission members: The political supremacy of the working people is visibly manifested in the consecutive popular victories won by our revolution and in particular by the stage we have now reached. The political supremacy built by the unity of the workers and the farmers and that of other democratic forces, guarantees that the all the activities carried out within our society have as their principal goal the fulfillment of the wishes of the broad masses. It is on the other hand also a defense and control mechanism against negative tendencies. This is the only way in which the political supremacy of any social power can assert itself.

As an essential precondition to the structuring of the workers political supremacy on a firm foundation in a historical context, the constitution must be prepared and implemented with the active participation of the people to assure its democratic nature. It is in this way that it will become possible to measure the level of the democratic rights of the workers and the democratic nature and popularity of government structures.

The results achieved in the past years by destroying the old feudal government structures and replacing them with new ones have served to give the workers their democratic rights. None the less, the drawing up of the constitution and its implementation will guarantee that the (?source) of the (?existence) of the new government will be the workers, that the government bodies will be fully answerable to the people and that in general the workers will be the source and wielders of power, the controllers of power and the supreme rulers. The Government of the PDRE will be the government of the working people of Ethiopia. The constitution will be the legal guarantor of the worker political supremacy.

It is expected that the constitution will lay down clear fundamental directives on political, economic, and social life. It is therefore clear how much depth of insight will have to be applied by the commission in drafting the constitution to ensure that it will create all the conditions necessary for guarnateeing the freedoms, rights, and duties of every citizen, the equality of the nationalities, the unity and security of our revolutionary motherland, and for the reliable protection of the correct path of our popular revolution. In general, it is clear how much effort this commission will have to make to ensure that the constitution guarantees the implementation of the WPE program consummates the national democratic revolution, [words indistinct]. The constitution will not be restricted to national issues and inasmuch as the drafting commission is charged with the duty of (?codifying) the legal content of foreign relations and international (?issues), it bears a heavy responsibility. The commission must ensure that the efforts and insight each member exerts in his work are commensurate with that heavy responsibility. Only if this is done can we discharge our historic responsibilities.

Members of Ethiopia's new Constitution Drafting Commission: It is clear how much understanding and insight are needed to create this important document as the essential legal basis for our country's future progress. It was out of the realization of the complex nature of this work that the Nationalities Studies Institute was established and conditions conducive to the success oru mission today were created by the scholars who gathered and collected the relevant information. Hence, in its efforts discharge its historic responsibilites as I stated earlier, the commission is not starting from scratch, but is able to use as a groundwork all the studies and preparations made so far. I wish on behalf of the people to express gratitude to the members of the WPE Central Committee's Nationality Affairs Department and particularly to the intellectual members of the Nationalities Affairs Institute, and to the comrades and the sons and daughters of the people who made direct or indirect contributions in the hope that the history of the new Ethiopia would give them the place they deserve.

The working people of Ethiopia will directly and actively participate in the republic and government they are to form. Their participation in its formation and particularly in the drafting of its constitution will manifest the democratic right by which they will decide their own destiny. It is the realization of this basic principle and of the fact that the working people's participation in drafting and endorsing the constitution is the result of their long and bitter struggle, which demonstrate that favorable conditions were created for the people to participate under the plan laid down by the WPE Central Committee's third regular meeting. The composition and operations of this commission will clearly reflect this.

In setting out the organization, duties, and responsibilities of the commission much attention was devoted to two basic issues. Inasmuch as the main aim of forming the commission was to ensure wide participation by working people in the preparation of the draft constitution, efforts were made to ensure that the commission became a body in which the working people were directly represented and had a hand in organizing the commission with particular reference to its composition. Secondly, efforts were made to arrange broad forums as outlets for the direct expression of views on the constitution drafted by the commission and to expand the infrastructure needed in this respect. The working people's views and discussions will enrich the draft constitution to be presented to them by the commission through various discussion forums and will make important contributions toward the quality of the document.

As well as helping the working people further to develop the democratic experience they gained during the later years of the revolution, this trend will also help them learn about the republic and how it operates and to prepare properly to participate in government. This aspect therefore demands great attention and its correct implementation must be closely pursued.

The working people can give constructive views to enrich the draft constitution by actively participating in the discussions on the various forums only if they sufficiently understand the draft constitution. Such understanding must be formed by consistently providing explanations by various means, as well as by widely distributing the draft constitution. The commission is charged with the weighty responsibility of finding effective methods of carefully studying, collating, and affording due respect for the views of the public provided to enrich the draft constitution. We are confident that the commission will successfully discharge its responsibility of enriching the constitution by incorporating the views of the public, compiling it accordingly, and thus bring us to the second stage — this being the submission of the draft constitution to the people for endorsement.

I wish to take the opportunity, my dear fathers, sisters, brothers, and comrades, to reassert on this forum where we have gathered from every part of our motherland to do our great and important national duty that we are endowed by history as the owners of a heritage which cannot be bought at any price, sold, or exchanged and which cannot be wrested or destroyed by any force. [applause] The heritage which has lived and will continue to live for ever as a shining example is our long history, which is counted in thousands of years and which is our pride.

Our Ethiopia, which is one of the very few ancient countries to have survived the deep pitfalls of history by defending its existence, has lived in poverty, but there has never been an occasion when its greatness was tarnished. [applause] The people's revolution ignited by its concerned children released Ethiopia from prison and awakened it from its sleep. Albeit that this startled its enemies and made it a target for attack, its children's struggle to transform its long history into a history of progress and prosperity has survived. Albeit that the struggle is replete with challenge, there can be no going back, because it is up to our people to get rid of all forms of backwardness and become self-reliant, I repeat self-reliant, and respected. [applause] Girded by such a strong spirit and determined stance, we shall advance to lay the foundations of our people's march toward the lasting progress which will earn the respect of history.

Today, under the leadership of our party, the working people have grapsed the controlling reins which assure them as makers of history. That is why the time in which we live is one when friends view us with eagerness and enemies view us with dismay. Because it is a time when we are handing over yesterday's feudal Ethiopia to the PDRE it is inevitable for us to attract special attention — both destructive and constructive. Such a situation, bearing witness as it does to our identity and actions, will also help us conceive the extent of the people's revolutionary unity we need to achieve the last step of asserting Ethiopia's new people's political system.

The key to opening the chapter of practical poular participation decisive in overcoming [word indistinct] is now in the hands of the Constitution Drafting Commission and the nature of the result will be determined by the extent of the working people's participation. A historic call is therefore addressed to every compatriot to exercise his right and do his duty to transform the motherland which bore him into a prosperous, educated, and respected mother Ethiopia for which patriots have shed their blood, where the working people have gained autonomy, and where nationalities live in equality as brothers in peace and prosperity. We are confident that we shall discharge the responsibility entrusted to us by the people with the help of the necessary popular response. [applause]

We shall certainly form the PDRE through our struggle!

We shall bring our people's aspirations to realization without yielding to any challenge.

All sons and daughters of the working people of mother Ethiopia: Let us march shoulder to shoulder!

We shall win! [applause]

UGANDA

NRA Reported Preparing Offensive on Gulu

EA261349 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
26 Feb 86 p 28

[Excerpts] A senior registrar at Uganda's Makerere University was shot dead by gunmen on Monday night [24 Feb]. Yesterday, students and lecturers organized a huge protest demonstration through the streets of Kampala.

Meanwhile, the NRA [National Resistance Army] is reported preparing to launch a final and decisive offensive on Gulu, the capital of Acholi in the north and reports say it is only a matter of time before the town falls. Gulu has been reported as the stronghold of Lieutenant General Basilio Olara Okello, who was chief of defence staff during general Tito Okello's six-month government, and has been accused of many atrocities since the fall of that regime.

A Kampala source said the fight to oust the Okello army is slow because the NRA Forces are trying to persuade the resisting troops to surrender to avoid more bloodshed on both sides.

CAMEROON

North Korean Delegation Received at Presidency

AB252112 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Relations between Cameroon and North Korea are growing more and more solid. This morning, at the Unity [Presidential] Palace, a special envoy of Pyongyang, Mr Om Tok-hwan, vice minister of external economic affairs, was received in audience by the permanent secretary at the Presidency of the Republic. Mr Ferdinand Leopold Oyono was assisted by the assistant permanent secretary, Joseph Owona. The North Korean envoy told the press that his visit is aimed at revitalizing the relations between our two countries, after the Cameroon-North Korea Joint Commission met in Pyongyang last year.

CHAD

Habre Holds Press Conference on Conflict in North

PM271215 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Feb 86 p 5

[Laurent Zecchini dispatch: "Opposition to Ndjamena Government a 'Myth' "]

[Text] Ndjamena — A cheetah stalked to and fro in the small enclosure in the garden of the president's residence. From the other side of the fence a gazelle watched him with disdain. Who is the cheetah in the Chadian conflict? President Hissein Habre started his press conference in his residence on Tuesday 25 February. He was wearing the customary white robe, and remained impassive under the photographers' flashbulbs, sitting in a wicker amrchair. Does he still believe, especially now, in the old military principle that the best defense is attack? There was a glint of amusement in his eyes: "That depends on the circumstances, the terrain, and the men. There are circumstances in which the best approach is attack, and there are circumstances in which defensive tactics are the best response."

That dealt with the question on everybody's lips: whether the Chadian National Armed Forces will take the initiative rather than waiting for a new offensive from the north, which will come sooner or later since Libya "is preparing to start operations again" and is strengthening its position "daily."

The Chadian people, the president reaffirmed, are determined to fight "as long as is necessary in all areas." The government is prepared to channel all the country's "resources" into the battle and the population is "prepared to make any sacrifices" even though "we are not warmongers." There was a hint of weariness in the president's remarks: Yes, "once again" events "mean that Chad is in the news." But who could be surprised by that? In Hissein Habre's view the 10 February offensive, this "escalation in the Libyan aggression," is "logical," confirming Tripoli's "annexationist appetites" and its "obvious desire for hegemony" with regard to Chad.

The Chadian president, who suddenly broke off this press conference after 45 minutes, clearly did not want to give any indication of his intentions, while emphasizing the probability of a new enemy offensive. "Terrible things are happening in Libya," he explained. The Libyans are indulging in a "manhunt," with blacks being sent to Faya-Largeau and Fada from where they are ready to launch another offensive. Will Mr Habre decide to take them by surprise?

Who does not remember that the Chadian head of state "warned international opinion" 2 months ago of the imminence of this new attack? Is he bitter? Not really. "It is a pity that that did not meet with the desired response." One thing is certain: The enemy who threw "a considerable number of heavy weapons of all calibers" into the battle, was repelled with "considerable human and material losses."

Tripoli, the Chadian president thinks, had been planning that offensive for 4 months and it was supported by a media campaign (the visit by journalists to the occupied part of Chad) and a diplomatic campaign, aimed at proving the existence of the National Unity Transition Government; in short, to oppose the Ndjamena government. "This is a myth," he exclaimed "you are perpetuating a myth." In his view the fact that various oppositionists have rallied to him in recent months was a "severe blow" to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Of course, he admitted, there are Chadians in the north: Goukouni Queddei, Acheikh ibn Omar. The rest, so we are to understand, are elements of the Islamic Legion and Libyans.

Until the international community realizes that, he stressed, there will be no progress toward settling the conflict at the diplomatic level. "There is a great deal of lack of courage at the international level. Many people cannot state this simple fact: Libya has no business in northern Chad." Moreover, the OAU is not a body which is "capable of solving this problem. What is more it has so far failed to solve any major problem."

France 'Said Yes'

Mr Habre once again thanked France, "Mr Mitterrand, and the French Government and people" for the aid Paris is giving him. France "standing by its promises and its friendly relations, said yes." Mr Habre has no doubt that if there is a change of majority it will remain faithful to the "historical ties" established with Chad. Moreover, he recalled, surely the "unanimity" in France on helping Chad is "rather extraordinary?" In short, he does not think that Franco-Chadian ralations "will be subjected to the nature of the aid given by Paris; the president was blunt: It is a "military secret." "Operation Epervier" is being conducted in "satisfactory" conditions and it is "still too soon to make a judgment." In any event what was done was well done: The runway of Ouadi Doum airport was "severely" damaged by the French bombs which put it "out of action," although there is an adjoining "traditional earthen runway" which is still "in action" and capable of receiving big C-130 transport planes.

Mr Habre was very amiable: "I do not see why people want to force France to do anything in particular. It is a sovereign and independent country." The Americans have so far merely responded to Ndjamena's wishes regarding "speeding up" their military aid which is "relatively small" ($5 million, according to Mr Habre) and have not yet given a "favorable reply" to the request for emergency aid.

Commentary on Improving Situation in South

AB251850 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 25 Feb 86

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Doba, Chad, Feb 25 (AFP) — Peace is returning to southern Chad after months of revolt against the Ndjamena government of Hissein Habre, with the surrender of most of the rebels, known as "Codos", in recent weeks. One of the most important groups, led by Colonel Alphonse Kotiga, surrendered early this month. Earlier, one of his lieutenants had defected to Ndjamena with almost 1,000 men.

The improvement in the situation is doubly welcome to Mr Habre, who is facing a sudden upsurge of fighting in the north with his Libyan-backed opponents of the Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT).

In the south, a few small armed bands are still active in several regions, but their operations seem to have more to do with banditry than politics or military tactics. These bands are being denounced by the local peasantry "who want nothing more than peace", according to the Doba Prefect (local administrator) Paul Ngardoumri. However traffic on the roads from Doba to centres like Moundou and Sahr still moves in convoys with a military escort "as a precautionary measure", Mr Ngardoumri said. The last Codos to have surrendered have been left with their arms in their camps in the bush. Those who were previously civilians will be "demobilized", while former soldiers will be integrated into the national army.

Chadian officials attribute the steady stream of Codos defections since the beginning of last year to the isolation of the rebels and Mr Habre's avowed policy of reconciliation. While government troops have been guilty of exactions against local people in their hunt for the Codos, forcing hundreds to flee south into the Central African Republic, Ndjamena's officials have continued trying to negotiate.

Various tours in the south since march last year have also endabled Mr Habre, himself a Muslim northerner, to gauge the realities of the situation and have led to better relations between local leaders and the central government.

The atmosphere in Doba Prefecture of Eastern Logone Province is now totally different from a year or so ago. Then, cut off from the region by the Codos, it was like a town under siege, and residents were in a state of great alarm. Now the government troops from the north seem to be better accepted and more relaxed. They are said to be making a great effort to get closer to the people, and a Protestant priest expressed astonishment at hearing one trying to speak the local language.

With the relaxation of tension and desire to show that the region is virtually at peace, the authorities recently organised an unprecedented agricultural fair in Doba. Participants came from every province in Chad controlled by Ndjamena, officials here said proudly. They saw it as a symbol that the south, traditionally the country's bread-basket, can now go back to concentrating on growing crops.

CONGO

President Interviewed on Chad Negotiations

AB251707 Dakar PANA in French 1006 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 24 Feb (ACI/PANA) — The Congolese head of state, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, has reasserted the need to achieve a negotiated and political solution in Chad in view of fighting in that country. Everything possible must be done to promote a negotiated solution which will guarantee the existence of a united Chad sheltered from all foreign intervention, and free to choose its friends and allies in a sovereign manner, he added in an interview with the Senegalese daily, *LE SOLEIL* published on Monday.

President Sassou-Nguesso, who on Monday begins his first friendly visit to Senegal since he took over power in 1979, pointed out that the prevailing situation in Chad justified all the efforts currently being made to reach a political solution. The Chadian crisis is a long and difficult procedure which requires much effort and patience, and demands the intervention of the whole of Africa, he stressed, expressing satisfaction nevertheless that many African countries are teaming up with us to make everyone aware of the importance of the issue. The Congolese head of state also expressed satisfaction with the frank and energetic cooperation of the current OAU chairman, Abdou Diouf.

President Sassou-Nguesso was mandated by the 21st OAU summit to reconcile all the Chadian factions through dialogue. Taking stock of his action, he recalled the holding in Brazzaville in October 1984 of a preparatory meeting of the reconciliation conference, which was attended by all factions. This same measure was followed up in July 1985 with the organization of a meeting of all parties opposed to Hissein Habre, the Chadian head of state. We are continuing these efforts, he said, pointing out that only an overall solution will ensure sincere and true national reconciliation based on a plan for a joint policy.

BENIN

Central Committee Meets; Issues Communique

AB261033 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Final communique issued at the end of the extraordinary session of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin held from 24 to 25 February 1986 in Cotonou, read by Pierre Esho, member of the Central Committee — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The PRPB Central Committee held an extraordinary session in Cotonou from Monday, 24 February to Tuesday, 25 February 1986 under the chairmanship of our great comrade in arms, Mathieu Kerekou. The meeting dealt mainly with the examination of matters concerning the renewal of the local state organs.

At the official opening of the meeting, the chairman of the Central Committee, who expressed appreciation of the rich experience gained by the hardworking and militant Beninese people on the path of continuous democratization of the revolutionary state organs, underlined the importance, the place, and decisive role of the local state organs in the democratic and regular operation of our new political system based on the rational implementation of our Constitution of 26 August 1977.

On the basis of the correct orientations thus formulated, the Central Committee very carefully examined the following documents:

1. The directive of the Central Committee relating to the renewal of the local state organs;

2. The directive of the permanent committee of the Revolutionary National Assembly to the chairmen of the supervisory teams and the electoral committees on the conduct of the operations of renewal of the local state organs;

3. The bill amending Law No. 81-001 of 23 March 1981 relating to the election of the local state organs: and

4. The draft budget for the election of the local state organs.

On the eve of these elections, the Central Committee urges all militants of the Beninese revolution to faithfully adhere to the party's general directives in the scrupulous respect for the prescriptions of the Constitution, of law No. 81-009 of 10 October 1981, and Law No. 81-001 of 23 March 1981 relating to the election of the local state organs. It strongly urges them to willingly accomplish this patriotic and militant duty in an atmosphere of perfect calm and sound revolutionary emulation.

Nigerian Delegation Arrives for Bilateral Talks

AB262213 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Nigeria and Benin are to examine their relations at all levels. This examination will certainly lead to the creation of new ways and means of strengthening these relations. It is easy to believe this, since a Nigerian delegation arrived in Cotonou this afternoon led by Alhaji Bonu Musa, the federal minister of industry. The Nigerian delegation was met at the Benin-Nigeria border by the minister of finance and economy, Antionio Hospice.

The Nigerian minister of industry is in Benin on a 4-day visit. The two parties, as Alhaji Bonu Musa pointed out, will discuss problems related to cooperation, cooperation that needs to be placed on the basis of the already existing ties between the two countries [words indistinct].

BURKINA FASO

Mali's Participation Sought in Economic Body

AB261558 Paris AFP in French 1357 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Ouagadougou, 26 Feb (AFP) — A Burkinabe mission led by Justin Damo Barro, minister of financial resources, went to Bamako twice this week, on Tuesday and Wednesday [25 and 26 Feb], in an attempt to persuade the Malian authorities to participate in the 35th session of the West African Economic Community [CEAO] experts committee, it was learned from an official source.

The meeting, which was due to have begun on 24 February, has not started yet due to the absence of the Malian delegation. The same source said that Mali has refused up till now to take part in CEAO meetings because the Burkina authorities continued to detain about 10 civilians from the village of Diounouga located at about 400 km north of Ouagadougou in the disputed Agacher zone which was the cause of the 6-day war last December.

According to a police source in Ouagadougou, however, the 10 persons have been released and left Ouagadougou this morning on an Air Burkina flight bound for Bamako. They were accompanied by the Burkinabe minister of financial resources.

Charged with abetting violence and with fraud and illegal possession of arms, they were arrested shortly before the Agacher War.

Mr Barro was already in the Malian capital yesterday accompanied by General Gomis, secretary general of the Non-aggression and Defense Aid Agreement (ANAD). An official source said that on that occasion, the Burkinabe minister handed to Malian President Moussa Traore a message from his Burkinabe counterpart, Captain Thomas Sankara, who is also current CEAO chairman.

The delegations of other member countries arrived in the Burkinabe capital several days ago to take part in the experts meetings of the CEAO which groups Benin, Burkina, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. [as received]

Meanwhile, the summit of the West African Monetary Union (UMOA which groups CEAO members except Mauritania) scheduled to take place on 26 and 27 March in Ouagadougou at the same time with the summits of the CEAO, the ANAD, and the Liptako-Gourma Development Authority has been postponed until a later date, it was learned from a source close to the National Organizing Committee of the 11th CEAO summit.

Congolese Leader Concludes Visit; Communique

AB222043 Ouagagoudou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Joint communique issued at the end of Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's visit to Burkina Faso from 20 to 22 February, read by Bassile Guissou, Burkina minister of external relations and cooperation — live or recorded]

[Text] Upon the invitation of Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], President of Burkina Faso and head of the revolutionary government of Burkina Faso, Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party [PCT], president of the People's Republic of Congo, and head of government, undertook a friendly and working visit to Burkina Faso from 20 to 22 February 1986.

In view of the deep brotherly and friendly ties existing between the Burkinabe and Congolese peoples, their attachment to the anti-imperialist struggle and to the same ideals of peace, justice and democracy, the Congolese head of state and his delegation received a particularly warm and enthusiastic welcome from the Burkinabe people mobilized within the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR].

During his visit, the Congolese head of state went to Bobo Dioulasso where he received a popular welcome, met officials, and visited important socioeconomic organs. Comrade Thomas Sankara and his distinguished guest held private meetings in a brotherly and cordial atmosphere, a characteristic of relations between the two countries. During their talks, the two heads of state examined and exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and major international issues.

Those who participated in the talks on the Burkinabe side were: Comrade Captain Blaise Compaore, minister delegate to the Presidency in charge of justice; Captain Pierre Ouedraogo, national CDR secretary general; Major Boukary Jean-Baptiste Lingani, batallion commander and minister of popular defense; Bassile Laetare Guissou, minister of external relations and cooperation; Beatrice Damiba, minister of environment and tourism.

Members of the Congolese delegation were: Antoine Ndinga-Oba, member of the PCT Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Jean-Francois Obembe, member of the PCT; Ossebi Douniam, minister of forest economy.

On bilateral issues, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with the gains of their two revolutions. In this framework President Thomas Sankara gave a brief report on the increasingly strong mobilization of the Burkinabe people which has led to important socioeconomic achievements in the field of agriculture, water control, housing, and environmental protection.

In reply, the president of the People's Republic of Congo congratulated the valiant militants of Burkina Faso for their hard and resolute struggle against underdevelopemnt and its annihilating consequences which are poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition.

The strengthening of relations between the two countries was closely examined. The two presidents expressed satisfaction with the positive development, and qualities of these relations. They agreed to do all in their power to strengthen them even further and bring them to a level of development that is in conformity with the aspirations of their peoples. In this context, the two heads of state noted the size and importance of the cooperation agreement between the Government of Burkina Faso and the Government of the People's Republic of Congo, and expressed satisfaction with the regular meetings of the joint cooperation commission existing between their two countries.

In the international sphere, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with the similarity of their views on the problems they discussed and reasserted their mutual desire to strive for long-lasting peace in Africa and in the world. In this regard, they expressed the unflinching support of their two states for the UN Charter, the OAU Charter, and the fundamental principles of nonalignment.

On the situation in Africa, they noted with satisfaction that in spite of the obstacles created by imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism, the African people had scored great victories in the achievement and completion of their political and economic independence. Examining the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state condemned the imperialist maneuvers aimed at perpetrating the hegemony of the colonialist and racist Pretoria regime in southern Africa by attempting to maintain the inhuman apartheid regime, by delaying the independence of Namibia and continually pressuring countries in the region.

Finally, they expressed their solidarity with the Frontline States and decided to support them in their struggle against the attacks by the Pretoria regime and launched an urgent appeal to all African people to give material and moral help to these countries.

On the Chadian issue, the two presidents expressed their deep preoccupation with the increase in fighting in that country, and the risk of an international conflict. They strongly condemned foreign intervention in that country and called for the respect of Chadian sovereignty and territorial integrity. They launched an appeal to all Chadian factions to urgently promote national reconciliation under the guidance of the Organization of African Unity. The comrade president of Burkina Faso congratulated Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso for his untiring efforts to promote peace in Chad.

On Western Sahara, they reasserted their support for the OAU resolutions, and maintained their belief that only direct negotiation between Morocco and the Polisario Front, in accordance with Resolution 104 AHG of the 19th OAU summit, and UN Resolution 39, 40 and A40/906 on the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Saharan people can solve the problem.

On the situation in the Middle East, the two heads of state reiterated their unflinching and constant support for the Palestinian people under the clearsighted leadership of the PLO for the creation of an independent and free Palestinian state, in accordance with the pertinent UN resolutions. They condemned all kinds of plots aimed at destroying the Palestinian cause.

They pointed out and energetically condemned the increasing cooperation and odious alliance between Israel, and the racist regime of South Africa, especially in the military and nuclear fields which endanger peace and stability in Africa and in the whole world.

On the Iran-Iraq conflict, they launched an urgent appeal for an end to the war so that the two brother countries may settle their problems around the negotiating table.

Analyzing the international political situation, the two heads of state reasserted their belief in the need for the people of the world to join ranks in the struggle against imperialism to create a world of peace and freedom according to their aspirations. They also expressed their personal belief that the preservation of peace and security in the world undoubtedly depends on the creation of a new world economic order that will end the domination of industrialized nations and the export products they impose on developing countries. In this regard, they emphasized the importance of strengthening inter-African economic relations, and the complementarity of the economies of African states.

The two leaders reasserted their revolutionary determination to practice militant and consistent internationalism based on the relentless struggle against reactionaryism and imperialism, to ensure the happiness and freedom of the people. The two presidents expressed satisfaction with the atmosphere of frankness and revolutionary brotherliness which characterized their exchange of views, and hailed the positive results they achieve in the political, economic, cultural, and information spheres. They stressed the need to continue such discussions in order to consolidate the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

At the end of his visit to Burkina Faso, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso expressed hearty thanks on his own behalf, and on behalf of his delegation to the Burkinabe people, the National Council of the Revolution, and the revolutionary government for the warm and authentically African welcome they received.

Signed in Ouagadougou on 22 February 1986

LIBERIA

$300 Million-Plus Semester Budget Announced

AB261753 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The Liberian Government has approved a budget of over $300 million to facilitate its operation for the second half of the fiscal year from 1 January to 30 June this year. The *FOOTPRINTS TODAY* newspaper, quoting Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Paul Jeffy, said the total revenue estimate of the budget for the 6 months is $128.85 million, while expenditure is estimated at $174.55. Minister Jeffy however noted that the budget has a deficit of $45.70 million, and noted that it has been proposed that the deficit be financed by disbursement project loans of $22 million plus proceeds from PL [Public Law] 18481 (?accounts) of $11 million, and other fiscal measures of $12.7 million.

NIGERIA

Land Borders to be Reopened Within Days

AB261534 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria's land borders which have been closed since April 1984, are to be reopened in a couple of days' time. A Radio Nigeria correspondent understands that a definite date for the reopening of the borders has been agreed on by the federal government. A formal announcement is expected to be made before the end of the week.

Obeya Reported Not Among Sentenced Officers

AB261532 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Contary to our report at this hour yesterday, Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuel Obeya is not among those sentenced to death by the Special Military Tribunal for plotting to overthrow the Federal Government. Although his name was among those of the first 14 suspects announced by the government, there is no indication that he was brought before the tribunal.

The minister of defense and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Domkat Bali, announced last week that he approved the release of an unspecified number of suspects found not to be involved in the coup plot.

Committee on ICO Membership Ends Meeting 26 Feb

AB262240 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The presidential committee on the country's full membership of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has ended a 2-day meeting in Lagos. The meeting considered an adoption of the [word indistinct] report for submission to the president.

A communique issued at the end of the session today said a subcommittee had been set up to draft the final report on recommendations to be passed to the government.

The draft will be considered at the next meeting of the committee scheduled for the 19th and 20th of next month. It expressed optimism that the effort would assist the government to arrive at an appropriate solution to the ICO problem. The communique called on members of the public and the press to continue to show much more restraint in their utterances, actions and publications on the matter.

SENEGAL

Press Communique Reported on Visit by Tunisia's Mzali

PM211123 Tunis L'ACTION in French 6 Feb 86 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Tunisian-Senegalese Press Communique"]

[Text] The press communique issued at the end of the official friendly visit to Senegal by Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and interior minister, at President Abdou Diouf's invitation, states that during their talks President Diouf and Mohamed Mzali discussed the main current international political and economic situation.

In this connection they expressed the same viewpoints on all the subjects raised owing to their respective governments' support for the common ideals which have always inspired the principles of Senegalese and Tunisian foreign policy.

In this context they reaffirmed their determination to work to safeguard and strengthen the OAU — the preferred framework for consultation, and for the preservation of peace and security in Africa to enable it to fully carry out its mission of completing the continent's liberation and consolidating its development.

Mohamed Mzali took this opportunity to convey President Bourguiba's congratulations and support to President Abdou Diouf for his initiatives and the specific actions he is taking in his capacity as OAU chairman to find the appropriate solutions to African problems.

— With regard to the situation in southern Africa, the Senegalese head of state and the prime minister reaffirmed their active solidarity with and wholehearted support for the fraternal Namibian and South African peoples under the leadership of SWAPO, the ANC, and the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC], their respective liberation movements. They reaffirmed that the establishment of lasting peace in this region cannot be ensured without the granting of independence to Namibia in accordance with UN security Council Resolution 435, and without eradicating the odious apartheid system.

They also expressed their acute anxiety over the blind massacre of South Africa's black population whose courage and valiant resistance they praised — a resistance they are waging under the ANC'S and PAC's leadership to recover their legitimate rights.

In the same spirit President Abdou Diouf and Mohamed Mzali forcefully denounced and condemned the recent measures announced by the Pretoria regime which once again reveal the true face of the deteriorating political system of apartheid and increase the risks of a racial and political explosion in South Africa with unpredictable consequences.

They took this opportunity to repeat the urgent appeal made to the international community to continue to exert the appropriate pressure on the South African Government with a view to simply abolishing apartheid.

They also condemned South Africa's aggressions and acts of destabilization against the Frontline states and Lesotho.

— On the Chadian question they agreed to continue current efforts to encourage the restoration of a lasting peace in Chad by national reconciliation, an end to all forms of foreign interference, and respect for Chad's national unity, independence, and territorial integrity.

Examining the situation in northwest Africa, they reaffirmed their position on the implementation of Resolution 104 adopted at the 19th OAU summit, and Resolution 40/50 adopted at the 04th session of the UN General Assembly, aimed at promoting a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the Western Sahara problem.

— With regard to the Middle East, the Senegalese head of state and the prime minister paid particular attention to the Palestinian problem, reaffirming their respective governments' unconditional support for the Palestinian people's struggle, and recalling that the establishment of a just and lasting peace necessarily depends on the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including the right to have an independent and sovereign state, and they stressed that peace in this region can only be established in the framework of a comprehensive solution, with the organization of an international conference under UN auspices and with the actual participation of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole representative.

In addition they once again strongly condemned the criminal raid on Tunis on 1 October 1985 perpetrated by the Israeli air Force in which many innocent Tunisian and Palestinians were killed.

With regard to Arab-African cooperation, President Abdou Diouf and Mohamed Mzali expressed the need to revitalize it to adapt it to the vast potential of the Arab and African countries, united by indissoluble cultural and spiritual ties.

In addition they exchanged views on the duty of all Islamic Conference member-countries to work for the cohesion and stability of the Islamic community to ensure that the Islamic Conference Organization continues to increase its credibility on the international stage by the gradual attainment of its objectives.

In this spirit they again expressed the hope that the Islamic peace committee's effort to end the fratricidal war between Iran Iraq will succeed.

After expressing their deep attachment to the Nonaligned Movement's ideals, principles, and objectives, the press communique states, the two statesmen remain convinced that detente in the world and the establishment of fruitful international cooperation are linked with scrupulous respect for the UN Charter and the advent of a new world economic and cultural order based on justice and mutual respect among states.

The examination of the international economic situation enabled the two sides to condemn the inequalities of the current international system characterized in particular by the rise of protectionism and the developed countries' efforts to hinder negotiations.

In this connection they expressed their concern over the Third World countries' growing debt, aggravated by international monetary chaos, and they stressed the need to establish a fruitful dialogue among the countries of the North and South.

In this framework they pledged to spare no effort to ensure that the UN special session on the economic situation in Africa scheduled to take place in New York in May 1986 is a resounding success in keeping with the African peoples' hopes.

In this spirit they welcomed the strengthening of cooperation among the developing countries and expressed the desire to see the OAU's recommendation on the convening of an international conference on the African countries' foreign debt implemented.

— On the subject of the widespread desertification in Africa they expressed their deep anxiety and acute concern about the harmful effects of this natural disaster on the lives of the peoples concerned.

They reaffirmed their intention to continue to work in an effective way to strengthen the special fund for emergency aid in drought and famine situations — a fund set up by the 20th OAU summit.

The document also says that the members of the Tunisian and Senegalese delegations met to examine various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

In this connection the two sides had a broad exchange of views of the various aspects of this friendly and fraternal cooperation, and expressed satisfaction with the development and quality of cultural, economic, and technical exchanges between Tunisia and Senegal.

They agreed to make every effort to increase the level of these exchanges to that of the excellent political relations between the two countries, in the spirit of the mutual friendship and confidence which unite President Abdou Diouf and President Habib Bourguiba.

In this spirit the two sides have decided to continue to revitalize all sectors of Senegalese-Tunisian cooperation, in view of their countries' potential and in their common interest.

Finally they agreed to increase exchanges of experience in the sphere of promoting their cultural heritage.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Meets Fidel Castro in Moscow

MB261341 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who is in Moscow attending the 27th CPSU Congress, yesterday met with Commander Fidel Castro, the Cuban head of state. The meeting, which was held at the official residence of President Fidel Castro, was attended by Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Leal Monteriro, deputy chief of the FPLA General Staff. Jorge Risquet led the Communist Party of Cuba delegation to the Second MPLA-LABOR Party Congress which was held in Luanda last December.

According to reports, in a behind-closed-doors meeting, which lasted for over 2 hours, they discussed the situation in southern Africa in light of the aggressiveness of racist South Africa against the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Angola, the question of Namibian independence, and the U.S. threat to our country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as evidenced by the White House's open material and moral support to the UNITA puppet group. Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and President Fidel Castro also reviewed the state of the Angolan-Cuban relations. At the end of the meeting, our cameras registered yet another historic picture of the Angolan and Cuban leaders who, in a fraternal embrace, reaffirmed the revolutionary friendship and solidarity uniting the Angolan and Cuban people in the common struggle against imperialism and apartheid and for peace, (?detente), and social justice.

Cooperation Talks With Nigeria Begin 26 Feb

MB261513 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The second session of the Angolan-Nigerian joint cooperation commission began in Luanda this morning to assess the progress of the relations of cooperation within the framework of the [words indistinct] program which were agreed upon during the first session, held in Lagos in August 1980. The two sides will study ways of implementing cooperation in the field of fisheries, agriculture, oil, industry, finance, and transport. The Nigerian delegation to the talks is led by Dr Kalu I. Kalu, minister of planning, and includes representatives of the Ministries of Culture and Information, Fishing, Transport, Trade , Industry and [words indistinct].

The Angolan delegation to the second session of the joint commission of cooperation is led by Minister of Internal [as heard] Trade Ismael Martins, and includes representatives from the Ministries of Energy and Petroleum, Fisheries, Agriculture, Finance, Industry, [words indistinct] and Culture.

Another UNITA 'Bandit' Sentenced to Death

MB261410 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The military tribunal of the 4th region yesterday morning sentenced another UNITA bandit to death by firing squad in view of evidence proving his involvement [words indistinct] with the group. The bandit was involved in espionage activities and laying of explosive devices in areas where civilians lived. The death of several people were aggravating circumstances against the accused. In his statements to the court, the defendant confirmed that he foiled an operation designed to destroy a UNITA base situated in the (?Cuima) sector. Accordingly, he managed, through his relatives, to alert the bandits enabling them to shift their hideout.

42 'Bandits' Killed in Benguela Province

MB241747 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Some 42 UNITA bandits were killed and 4 others captured in military operations carried out by the FAPLA combatants in Benguela Province during the first 2 weeks of February. As a result of these operations, which were in response to the acts of slaughter perpetrated by the puppets, assorted war materiel was captured, including 11 light weapons, 3 RPG-7 shells, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, and hand grenades. It is worth mentioning that these operations occurred in the Lulambo and Serra Oca areas of Caimbambo municipality, Balombo in Chongoroi municipality, and Serra (Chiteque) in Ganda municipality. A number of bandit hideouts were destroyed and 43 civilians released from the yoke of the bandits in these areas. A total of 83 heads of cattle stolen from the resident were recovered.

'Terrorists' Kill 70 Civilians in Damba

MB261627 Luanda ANGOP in English 1625 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Luanda, Feb 26 (ANGOP) — Seventy civilians, mostly defenceless women and children were recently killed in Damba municipality in the north western Province of Uige during treacherous attack perpetrated by a group of terrorists backed by the South African racist regime.

As a result of this new criminal action against Angolan people tens of peasants were wounded by these armed bandits who, avoiding direct confrontation against Angolan armed forces, have chosen peaceful and defenceless people as their main target.

These murders are the same who on Jannuary 28 killed 107 women and children in the municipality of Camabatela and days later killed 27 people in the village of Lossolo, in the southern Province of Huila.

Thus, the anounced intention of the U.S. Administration of giving more than 15 million U.S. dollars of military help to these terrorists just aims to increase more bloodshed and more crimes against Angolan people.

MOZAMBIQUE

Strengthening of Nkomati Accord Discussed With RSA

MB261608 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1605 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 26, SAPA — Proposals to strengthen the implementation of the Nkomati Accord were discussed by senior South African and Mozambican officials meeting in Maputo today.

According to a statement issued in Cape Town, the proposals were discussed when the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha; his deputy, Mr Ron Miller; and senior departmental officials met the Mozambican minister for economic affairs, Major-General Jacinto Veloso, and senior Frelimo officials.

The foreign affairs statement said a wide variety of subjects had been discussed, of which the most important was the security situation between the two countries.

"The two delegations agreed that the Nkomati Accord is of great importance to the peoples of southern Africa and for peace and stability in the region as a whole.

"Proposals to strengthen the implementation of the Nkomati Accord will be conveyed by the leaders of the two delegations to their respective governments."

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Interviewed on Ties With Neighbors

MB270756 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0515 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Interview with Foreign Minister Pik Botha by Steve Britten on the "Radio Today" program introduced by Bea Reed — recorded]

[Text] [Reed] The minister of foreign affairs returned from a trip to Maputo late last night after talks with Mozambican government officials. Mr Pik Botha spoke to Steve Britten:

[Begin recording] [Botha] We spent a couple of hours in very serious discussion on a variety of matters, but of course, as you can imagine, the question of security — the Nkomati Accord, and alleged violations of that accord — that was the main subject of our discussions.

[Britten] So you are saying that the Nkomati Accord is still alive and well?

[Botha] I think after today, yes. Yes. I told our friends in Maputo that just as they have suspicions that there were violations, so do we have suspisions that there were and are violations. And we concentrated on practical means to investigate these allegations, and I am satisfed that the proposals that we agreed on and that we will now convey to our respective governments constitute a new and dynamic and realistic mechanism for resolving these issues.

[Britten] Does this mean that there will be regular feed-back sessions between the two governments now?

[Botha] I hope so. We agreed on that, we agreed that ministers must meet more often, that we must be on contact with each other on a more continuous basis.

[Britten] Mr Botha, you have also recently been to Botswana?

[Botha] No, I did not personally visit Botswana. My officials did so under my directions. They reported back to me today. The outcome of the latest round of talks is very promising. The Botswana Government and ourselves agreed that neither government would allow each other's territories to be used for the planning or implementation of any form of violence, and that steps would now be considered to remove any menace, any threat, in this particular field.

[Britten] What is the situation, then, regarding the other neighbors — Swaziland, Lesotho, and possibly Zimbabwe?

[Botha] As far as I am concerned, it is promising, realistic. As far as Lesotho is concerned, the present Lesotho Government fully recognizes this principle, and I have every reason to believe that that government will implement this principle. As far as Swaziland is concerned, we have had a long-standing arrangement, an agreement, in actual fact, agreed upon between us and the late King Sobhuza, and it works well. As far as Zimbabwe is concerned, I think our relations are realistic. They have certain political problems, they have certain alliances within the OAU, which we understand. But the fact is that Prime Minister Mugabe indicated that he would not allow his country to be used for the planning or implementation of violence from his country against any member — any neighbor — including South Africa. So by and large, if South Africa and Mozambique can now implement the Nkomati Accord in a more realistic fashion, I think we have strengthened today the possibility of implementing that accord in a more realistic way.

[Britten] And you are saying that the other neighboring countries could possibly learn from this?

[Botha] Well, I would say that I believe there is dawning on all the leaders of southern Africa a new necessity, a new concept, that we cannot resolve the region's problems while conflict, sabotage, terrorism, takes place. And it is not good trying to accuse one another. We all have to admit that there can only be prosperity and progress if all of us adhere strictly to the principle that, despite our differences as regards particular forms of government, of utmost importance is peace and stability, and refraining from allowing any person or organization from operating from our territories against one another. I think that there is a new awareness of the necessity to do justice. [end recording]

Deputy Minister Favors Scrapping Amenities Act

MB270548 Umtata Captial Radio in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The South African Government has strongly hinted that another cornerstone of apartheid may be scrapped. Deputy minister of constitutional development and planning, Piet Badenhorst, has said in the colored House of Parliament that he is in favor of the scrapping of the controversial Separate Amenities Act.

He was reacting to a motion proposed by Labor Party member Desmond Lockey, which called for the repeal of all legislation which reserves public amenities on the basis of race.

Mr Badenhorst has pointed out the President's Council committee is investigating the possible scrapping of the act.

President Botha Visits Job Training Center

MB261754 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, says the government's job-creation program is a grassroots method of training the country's future labor force and if the program runs effectively hundreds of thousands of people stand an excellent chance of benefiting.

[Begin video] [Reporter Jan van Niekerk] Mr Botha as well as the minister of manpower, Mr Piet du Plessis; the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis; and the director general of manpower, Dr Piet van der Merwe, this afternoon visited the Western Cape Training Center in Goodwood where 1,500 unemployed people are being trained as part of the government's 600 million rand job-creation program. The 300 instructors at this center were also unemployed prior to receiving their instructors' positions. The response from the private sector to this scheme has been overwhelming. Up to now, 157 contracts for training of 204,000 unemployed before the end of March have been signed. It is anticipated that a total of some 300,000 unemployed pepole will ultimately be trained in more than 200 different regions in South Africa.

[Botha] As you know, the government started this scheme together with the private sector and I think when we started it we didn't know that it was going to be such a success as we are witnessing here today. I think this is a grassroots approach to our problems and the training of people who can help themselves after that is a magnificent attempt. I am impressed with the work done here. I am impressed with the organization and if things run smoothly, towards the second half of this year we will have hundreds of thousands of people properly trained who can do a day's job in the ordinary life. And I wish to congratulate the Department of Manpower, the minister with his department, as well as the private sector for operating with us as well as Mr Greyling and his wife here who is actually leading this project.

[Van Niekerk] Will there be more money made available for this project?

[Botha] Yes, you must speak to the minister of finance about that. I will try and influence him. [end video]

Slabbert Planning Talks With ANC, AZAPO, UDF

MB261455 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1449 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] London, Feb 26, SAPA — Former opposition leader Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert is planning talks with the Broederbond [secret Afrikaner brotherhood] as well as with the banned ANC and the PAC in his mission to determine minimum conditions under which "serious negotiation" can begin between black leaders and the South African Government.

He told SAPA today he did not intend forming a new organisation or joining an existing one, and after his wide-ranging talks he would publish his conclusions inside South Africa.

"I'm ready to talk to anyone. The main question is how to undercut the escalation of violence in South Africa," he said.

Dr Slabbert said that from his previous experience — he met the ANC leadership in Lusaka last October — one of the conditions for negotiations would be the total abolition of apartheid.

"We are trapped in a situation where we cannot start negotiations. I want to establish what the different groups would consider to be minimum conditions," he said.

Dr Slabbert, who resigned from the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] leadership earlier this month because he did not believe the government could be persuaded through the parliamentary system to abandon apartheid, listed the Broederbond, the ANC, the PAC, the UDF [United Democratic Front], and AZAPO [Azania People's Organization], as well as black trade unions, as the organisation he intends talking to. He said he had no timescale for his mission, and he was prepared to meet the ANC anywhere.

He is in London to promote the publication of his book, *The Last White Parliament*, and he said that when he returned to South Africa next week he would "take stock of the situation and see what I can do."

Dr Slabbert said yesterday he wanted to discuss with the ANC the conditions under which it would be prepared to negotiate with the government, the strength of its commitment to violence and how it saw an alternative future for South Africa.

He urged the government to restore "the freedom of choice" to blacks by legalising banned organisations, because only when that happened would the actual distribution of political support be apparent.

"Those are the people you have to negotiate with. You can't negotiate with people who do not enjoy credibility and cannot act and speak on behalf of their constituencies," he said.

Miller Answers UK Envoy on Alexandra, KwaNdebele

MB260906 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0842 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, February 26, SAPA — The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ron Miller, said today the British ambassador to South Africa, Sir Patrick Moberly, had registered a complaint of alleged excessive force being used by security forces in Alexandra in Johannesburg. The British Government also alleged that many citizens were detained without trial, and Britain objected to this practice.

His response, he said in a statement to SAPA, was that these allegations were based mainly on hearsay and unreliable press reports but he would nevertheless convey the ambassador's communication to the South African Government.

The government did not usually comment on discussions between ambassadors of foreign countries and the Department of Foreign Affairs. The fact that the British Government saw fit to make public a discussion which took place between himself and Sir Patrick necessitated an appropriate response, he said.

Mr Miller said: "I believe it is significant to point out that Britain herself used detention without trial for many years in her conflict in northern Ireland.

"The British ambassador also expressed his government's concern about the Sharpville six who were recently sentenced to death by the South African courts. I indicated to the ambassador that as there were appeals lodged against the sentences the matter was now sub judice and I was therefore not in a position to comment.

"Again it is significant to point out that as in Britain the South African judiciary stands independent of the executive and therefore we are not prepared to accept political interference in court proceedings", he said.

Mr Miller said Sir Patrick conveyed the British Government's concern that KwaNdebele was to take independence on December 4 1986, at a time when the British Government thought the South African Governemnt was moving away from apartheid.

"I told the ambassador that the constitutional option of independence was never forced on KwaNdebele, but was requested by its legitimate leaders, and had nothing to do with so-called apartheid.

"Just as the British Governemnt had honoured its obligation to grant independence on an ethnic basis to the Tswana of Bechuanaland, the Swazis of Swaziland and the Sothos of Basutoland, so would South Africa honour its obligation to grant independence to any black nation which voluntarily requested it", he said.

The British ambassador also conveyed his government's concern about "so-called-forced removals from Moutse.

"I told Sir Patrick that there was no question of people being removed forcibly as was clearly stated by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, minister of education and development aid, in a recent statement to Parliament," Mr Miller said.

UDF Eastern Cape Official Reportedly Detained

MB261750 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1748 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, Feb 26, SAPA — The United Democratic Front [UDF] today condemned the alleged detention by police of its eastern Cape publicity secretary, Mr Stone Sizani, calling it "a serious attempt to place the organisation's ongoing activities in jeopardy."

The UDF's eastern Cape regional vice-president, Mr Henry Fazzie, said in a statement from Port Elizabeth that police had detained Mr Sizani in the early hours of this morning.

"At a time when the Botha regime speaks of reforms and tries to create a false image abroad we see this act as an indication of its hypocrisy and total insincerity," he said.

Mr Fazzie said Mr Sizani had been involved in solving the current education crisis and played a key role in the education crisis committee.

"The eminent persons group and the Commonwealth at large have indicated their desire to meet the real leaders of the people and have already been gravely discontented at the contradiction between the ludicrous utterings of reform and the reality of oppression in our land."

The detention of Mr Sizani and hundreds of the country's leaders and supporters made an attempt to peacefully solve the problems of the country "a virtually impossible task," Mr Fazzie said.

Hendrickse Announces New Exams for Student Teachers

MB260637 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2310 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 25, SAPA — The announcement that final-year student teachers at coloured training colleges who failed or did not write their final exam would now be able to write at the end of the year has been welcomed.

The announcement was made yesterday by the chairman of the ministers' council in the House of Representatives, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, who added that such students would not be required to return to college at the end of the first term, as was initially envisaged.

Students today welcomed the announcement, which affects those in their final third or fourth year, saying it meant they could continue teaching and would not have to "leave pupils in the lurch".

One ex-student who is teaching at a Grassy Park school said they would have had to return to college after the first term and re-apply for posts at high schools after completing their final college year.

"There is a shortage of teachers at high schools because of the boycotts at colleges. Now student teachers are able to continue teaching and colleges don't have the problem of accommodation," said the student, who did not want to be named. He said the actions of first-and second-year students who "promoted" themselves in an effort to highlight student grievances was appreciated. "They showed they were not selfish."

Mr Hendrickse announced last week that first-and second-year students who failed or did not write final exams would be allowed to write in March.

Gold Mine Strike at Klerksdorp Ends Late 26 Feb

MB270610 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0607 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 27, SAPA — The strike at Vaal Reef's gold mine at Klerksdorp is over, a spokesman for mine owners, Anglo American [Corporation, AAC], said this morning.

Workers at all shafts reported for duty last night and "everything is back to normal at the mine," a spokesman for the AAC said in a brief two-paragraph statement.

5 Mine Employees Denied Bail

MB271212 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1209 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Stilfontein, Feb 27, SAPA — A magistrate today refused bail to five Vaal Reefs mine employees charged with public violence. He said they would interfere with witnesses at the mine where the situation was already "explosive."

Appearing before Mr C.W. Steyn were migrant labourers Mr Tyelovuyo Mgedezi, 28, Mr Solomom Nongwathi, 38, Mr Tsietsi Tshehlana, 38, Mr Si Phiwe Mbalomdaka, 28, and Mr Joseph Thoo, 26, all of shaft 5 Hostel, Vaal Reefs. They were arrested on Monday after unrest on the mine which left four other employees dead. The prosecutor, Mr H.C. Raath, said it was likely the five would later be charged with murder.

In an unsuccessful application for bail, Mr M. Wacks, for the defence, submitted that the men — all Transkeians except for Mr Thoo, who is from Lesotho — should surrender their passports, pay R1500 bail each and stand trial.

He said Mr Mgedezi, a clerk, Mr Nongwathi, a bossboy, Mr Tshehlana, a winch driver, Mr Mbalomdaka, a shift boss and Mr Thoo, a loco driver, had all been employed at the mine for "considerable years." "If these men are not let out on bail, they will remain in custody for longer than until March 20 — the postponement date — because the trial will not even start at that hearing," said Mr Wacks.

Four others, arrested with the five, were released by police before the court appearance.

Death Toll in Lebowa Unrest Reaches Three

MB271222 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1221 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 27, SAPA — The official death toll for the week in the troubled Lebowa area of Motetema has risen to three. Severely beaten youths, recently released from jail, have poured into Johannesburg for medical treatment and legal advice.

The police commissioner for Lebowa, Brigadier W. Beetge, said three people were killed in Motetema last week but he denied injured youths were still in the cells of the local police station.

The statement was a response to claims by the Motetema Youth Congress [MOYCO] which said it had reason to believe Basic Chochoane, 19, and Jerry Ntuli, 21, had been kept in jail after suffering gunshop wounds. Lawyers had been unsuccessful in seeing the two young men, a MOYCO spokesman said, but believed they were likely to appear in court today.

Only one of the dead, Solomon Matshomane (19) has been identified. Young people from Motetema crowded into makeshift doctors' rooms in Johannesburg yesterday to be treated for wounds suffered when they were arrested a week ago.

Most of the 35 patients had been freed from jail only the day before, when they appeared in court on charges of public violence.

Many, including several women, had suffered severe sjambok wounds, allegedly at the hands of the Lebowa police during and after arrest.

One young man had black marks and an open sore on his hands. He alleged these were due to electric shock torture. He has made statements to his lawyers and doctors have removed tissue to be tested by pathologists.

Brigadier Beetge commented: "We have received complaints about people having been sjambokked and we are investigating. I visited the area yesterday and I have had no reports of electric shock treatment."

Clement Paile, 10, a Standard 2 pupil, said he had been passing a cafe last Thursday when he saw youths and police clash. "I saw police coming out of the police station and one of them point a gun at me." Clement must have turned to run, because he was shot on the back of the head.

Man To Be Tried for Durban Shopping Center Bombing

MB261146 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1123 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Durban, Feb 26, SAPA — A 19-year-old man, who earlier this week admitted setting off a limpet mine which killed five people in an Amanzimtoti shopping complex just before Christmas, was today committed to the Supreme Court for trial on March 17.

Mr Andrew Sibusiso Zondo, of KwaMashu, pleaded not guilty before Mr G.E. Andrews in the Durban magistrates court for five charges of murder and one of attempted murder.

He is alleged to have murdered Mrs Anna Shearer, 40; Mrs Irma Bencini, 48; Miss Sharon Bothma, 16; Willem Arrie van Wyk, 2; and Corneo Smit, 8.

The state alleges that these died of multiple injuries as a result of the limpet mine exploded by Mr Zondo in a shopping centre in the Sanlam complex on December 23 last year. Mr Zondo, pleading not guilty, admitted setting off the limpet mine but denied having an intention to kill anyone.

He is also charged with attempted murder. The state alleges that by his conduct, he attempted to kill members of the public at or near the Sanlam centre.

Mr R.S. Suhr, senior public prosecutor of Durban, said Mr Zondo would also appear in the Supreme Court tomorrow when the state applied for the trial to be held at Scottburgh. Mr Suhr said that in spite of Mr Zondo saying he did not want legal representation, senior and junior counsel had been appointed by the state to appear for Mr Zondo at his trial.

In a statement of facts handed to Mr Zondo today, the state alleges that Mr Zondo and a companion went to the shopping centre on the morning of December 23. The shopping centre was crowded. Mr Zondo is alleged to have placed a limpet mine wrapped in newspaper in a refuse bin in the centre of the shopping arcade. The limpet mine exploded, causing injuries to numerous people in the vicinity.

The five people named in the charge sheet died of multiple injuries at the scene or shortly afterwards.

Detained Bonteheuwel Students Released

MB261945 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1937 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Cape Town, Feb 26, SAPA — Forty Bonteheuwel Inter-School Committee [BISCO] pupils and an Advice Office Forum [AOF] worker detained in Monday's police swoop at the local town centre were released from Bishop Lavis police station at 2am this morning.

Describing the move as a victory for our organisation and the broader community, the pupils in a statement attributed their release to the mounting pressure of teachers, students and parents.

Pupils at Mitchells Plains' 12 high schools yesterday threatened further action if their fellow pupils were not freed. At Rylands Senior Secondary School, about 500 pupils today staged an hour-long sit-out at 8.30am in solidarity with the detainees.

The Bonteheuwel pupils were holding an education workshop at the offices of the Advice Office Forum when they were detained by about 15 policemen.

Sources said police also took possession of an AOF filing cabinet containing files of unrest victims, pamphelets, posters and other material. A police spokesman in Pretoria said at the time that he could not comment on the claim that the policemen had taken AOF property.

Education Department Reports on 1985 School Unrest

MB261415 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1414 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Parliament, February 26, SAPA — It had become clear that many pupils involved in unrest at black schools last year had "very little or no conception of the meaning of demands and slogans," the Department of Education and Training [DET] said in its annual report for 1985 tabled here today.

It was also clear that large groups of pupils, even in primary schools, were being "used for ulterior political motives and intimidated to take part in boycotts." The report also said the wide publicity given to unrest at black schools left the general public with a "distorted" impression of the extent of the disturbances.

Despite "continued daily liaison with the media," it remained alarming that certain sectors of the media concentrated on "negative, destructive and sensational reporting" and deliberately ignored important positive developments. Continued negative reporting had a "definite detrimental influence on the attitudes and self-image of pupils and creates a breeding-ground for the misuse of pupils for political purposes which have no connection with education."

In reality an average of between 250 to 280 schools out of more than 7,500 were seriously disrupted by boycotts and intimidation in 1985. This represented about 250,000 pupils out of a total of 1.8 million. From September 1, 1984 to October 31, 1985, 126 of the department's schools were damaged in incidents of unrest.

"In most cases the damage was slight and only 13 schools were damaged to the extent that they cannot now be used for educational purposes. The total damage is estimated now at about R8 million."

Despite the relatively limited nature of the unrest, a special effort was made to "normalise conditions and to promote communications."

Several publications were distrubuted to point out to the community the detrimental effects of the boycotts of students, pupils, teachers and parents.

All students' complaints of an educational nature were thoroughly investigated and if they were well-founded, immediate steps were taken to eliminate the problems. These complaints, however, became "progressively more militant and political in nature."

Attempts to create a generally acceptable constitution for representative students councils [SRC's] had "unfortunately been slowed down by the inflexible attitude adopted by certain organisations." These organisations also refused to contribute to the revision of the proposed constitution after they had rejected it. The department nevertheless supported the principle that pupils should have representation in some form or other.

Guidelines for the establishment of SRC's — including one that the SRC's should "restrict their interests and actions to educational matters affecting their own individual schools" — had consequently been sent to all schools to help with the establishment of such bodies.

The publication by the minister in May 1985 of the detailed and explicit education policy for the department clearly indicated the policy guidelines for the development of education. The policy statement was also instrumental in refuting the "irresponsible statements on what the department's policy is purported to be."

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 26 Feb

MB261802 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1801 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 26, SAPA — Here is the 7pm unrest situation report, issued by a spokesman for the SAP's public relations division in Pretoria:

"In Umlazi, near Durban, about 30 blacks stoned a school, injuring two black youths. Two blacks were arrested.

"In Mamelodi, near Pretoria, police arrested one black man and two youths after delivery vehicles were set alight.

"A black male under 18 was arrested today at Thabong Township, near Welkom, after he stoned a school building.

"About 150 blacks stoned a private vehicle in the township. The owner, Mr J.L.C. Eloff, was slightly injured. There were no arrests.

"In Constantia black township, Kroonstad, about six blacks set fire to the local school. One male over 18 was arrested.

"A black youth was arrested in Langa, near Cape Town, after he had been involved in stoning an SAP vehicle."

Ends report.

Early 27 Feb

MB270647 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0644 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 27, SAPA — Following is SAP situation report on unrest to 8am.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Soweto (WWR) [Witwatersrand] minor incidents occured. A bus and two private vehicles were stoned.

"At Bonteheuwel (coloured residential area near Cape Town) a bus and a private home were extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At Aliwal North (Cape Province) in the black residential area, a private home was destroyed by arsonists.

"At Uitenhage on the Despatch Road, the driver of a vehicle was injured whn his vehicle was destroyed by a mob which petrol-bombed it.

"At Zwide near Port Elizabeth police vehicles were petrol-bombed on two occasions. The SAP used tear smoke to disperse the mobs. A policeman was injured when his home was petrol-bombed.

"At Claremont in Port Natal a private vehicle was damaged by a petrol bomb.

"At Tembisa on the east Rand, a private vehicle and two buses were stoned."

"At Cookhouse, in the black residential area Bongweni, the following incidents, which do not appear to be unrest-related, occurred:

— A woman of 49 died and three men were injured during a fight between two groups. In the same area, persons fired at a group of blacks, fatally wounding a man. When a private vehicle arrived to pick up the body, shots were fired at the vehicle."

End report.

CAPE HERALD To Cease Publication 29 March

MB261007 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0853 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 26, SAPA — Cape Town's coloured oriented newspaper, the *CAPE HERALD*, ceases publication at the end of next month, the chairman of the Argus Company, Mr Hal Miller, announced today.

Mr Miller said a further decline in circulation, coupled with the recession, had worsened the *CAPE HERALD*'s financial position in spite of efforts last year to reduce costs.

"The losses being experienced are greater than in the past and are no longer acceptable."

Mr Miller said two new community newspapers would be launched to provide advertisers with improved opportunities to reach their markets and readers with community news from their areas. They would be distributed free. The last *CAPE HERALD* appears on March 29.

The Argus announced later that Mr E.J. (Ted) Doman, editor of the *CAPE HERALD*, had asked to be released from his position and the company had "with regret" acceded to this request.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] **MP's Withhold Reaction to Pay Rise** Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 25 February carries a front-page report by David Braun which says: "To judge from the mood of politicians today, the proposed massive increases in salaries and allowances for parliamentarians will almost certainly not be implemented immediately." The parties have withheld reaction to a recommendation of salary increases of between 55 and 106 percent until their caucuses could discuss them. Louis Stofberg of the Herstigte Nationale Party (Reformed National Party — HNP) said it "was disgusting and callous of the Government even to consider tabling such recommendations." He pledged that if the increases were instituted, he would donate any additional pay he received to the funds of the HNP. " 'At least in that way the Government will be contributing to its downfall,' " he said. Members of Parliament from the other parties seemed to agree in private that the increases were "too high."

Fears of Rail Strike Increase

Kym Hamilton reports on the same page that the massive pay increases proposed for parliamentarians have raised the fears of a rail strike. "Railwaymen say there is growing grassroots support for a strike among railway workers who feel insulted by their 10 percent increase." The press secretary for the National Union of Mineworkers said the proposed parliamentary increases were "typical of a government not ruled by the consent of the majority. Workers would feel outraged, but not surprised."

Train Conductor Stabbed, Killed

The *STAR* reports on page 1 that a train conductor was stabbed to death at a Johannesburg station after he "prevented a coloured man from entering a 'whites only' carriage."

Renewed Violence in Brits

"Scores of police" patrolled the Brits area near Pretoria North and youths "were being 'picked up by the police in the street without have done anything,'" says a report on page 3. The action apparently followed an incident in which youths stoned two buses belonging to the Bophuthatswana Transport Holdings Company Monday. "Residents also alleged that at least 20 people had been arrested since the clash between residents and police on Sunday night. Some were allegedly arrested during house-to-house raids by the police." Students boycotted classes in the area and there was a partial work stayaway. The violence broke out after a meeting at the local Catholic church on Sunday to discuss "the threat of forced removal which residents claim has hung over the old location for more than 50 years."

Indian MP Demands Attention for Grievances

Amichand Rajbansi, chairman of the Ministers Council in the House of Delegates, said he would lead the House out of the tricameral Parliament unless the government addresses three grievances raised by the House last year. The grievances concerned: "The second access road to Chatsworth township; the future of Clairwood, Durban, as a residential area for Indians; abolition of a discriminatory means test for pensions."

Council Votes for Township Removal

"The Krugersdorp Town Council last night unanimously rejected the Government's decision to leave Munsieville on its present site and demanded that it be moved as soon as possible," Karen Bowes reports on page 7. Debate on the council's 25-year battle to have the township moved was heated, but the final decision that the township "be moved to a more suitable site" was unanimous. One resident of Dan Pienarville, a white residential suburb adjoining the township, said: " 'Munsieville is a cancer and has to be removed. We must protect our own whites' skins.' "

'Power Behind Botha's Throne'

Hannes de Wet reports on page 16 on an article by two political scientiests at Rand Afrikaans University which appeared in *SOUTH AFRICA INTERNATIONAL, a quarterly publica*tion. Botha's system of government by committee has been thought to preclude the possibility of a close confidant and "power behind the throne", the academics say. " 'In Government circles there is nonetheless growing talk of such a figure emerging. He is said to be Dr Jannie Roux, secretary-general of the President's office, referred to as "JR" by politicians and bureaucrats. Whatever Roux's precise influence with Botha may be, an impression gaining ground is that the President is becoming increasingly detached and insulated from his Cabinet and parliamentary caucus.' " The column notes that B.J. Vorster was criticized at the end of his career for a "general lack of urgency in handling national issues," and says National Party reformers are now asking whether Botha has also reached "the limits of his capacity or willingness to reform."

Cash, Not Sentiment Rules Trade

"The government would trade with any country, including communist countries, as long as they paid for the goods," Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha told a meeting in Yeoville on Monday. Susan Pleming reports on page 17 that Botha said: " 'If you sell your mealies to the Soviet Union or the United States it does not matter. As long as they sign on the dotted line that is good enough.' "

Committee Defends Salary Proposals

David Braun reports on page 17 that Alwyn Schlebusch, chairman of the committee which recommended the salary adjustments for members of Parliament, has defended the proposals as being "in line with the new duties and responsibilities of officials." Schlebusch said parliamentarians' remuneration "should not be so low as to deter suitable candidates from entering politics; or that it compels ordinary members to seek additional income elsewhere; or that it bears no relation to what members can earn outside Parliament. On the other hand, members' remuneration should not be so high as to be unacceptable to the informed public or to create the perception that pecuniary reward is becoming the only attraction."

Banks Cautious on Long-Term Gains for Rand

Bankers are predicting a stronger rand in the short term, but are unclear about its long term prospects, John Tilston reports on page 3. Both Standard and Barclays bank spokesmen said the debt repayments constraint offered limited room for manuever, and said the gold price will be a crucial determinant of the ultimate level of the rand this year. A Citibank spokesman said further appreciation of the currency above the $0.50 mark will be "limited, mainly because of the pressure it would place on the current account."

MP Pay Raises 'Silly'

Commenting on parliamentary pay raises, *BUSINESS DAY* says on page 6: "Until the political and economic mistakes of the past six years are overcome, and the economy shows signs of robust life, it is silly even to think of upgrading MP's. Thanks to them our economy is in the mire now."

School Crisis Not Over Yet

Thelma Tuch comments on page 6 that the black school crisis is not yet over, and although "most pupils had returned to school, the situation in many townships was extremely tense." Rev Molefe Tsele, a spokesman for the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee (SPCC), said "pupils were still being detained despite the 'delicate' situation," and "the educational authorities in certain areas continued to expel pupils for not paying school fees." He added: " 'We have reached the stage where it is very difficult for us to insist that students remain in classes in the face of the provocation that is going on.' " A spokesman for the Department of Education and Training said Deputy Minister of Education and Training Sam de Beer was currently drafting his reply to SPCC proposals, and " 'this will be forwarded to the SPCC as soon as he deems fit.' "

SOWETAN on Munsieville Move

Commenting on the petition by Dan Pienaarville residents to have the township of Munsieville moved, the *SOWETAN* says in an editorial on page 4 the government was praised by many when it decided not to move Munsieville several years ago, and it will "look pretty sick should it reverse a very good decision taken not to deprive these people of homes they may have lived in for many years."

U.S. Aid for UNITA Lauded

America cannot stand idly by and allow Dr Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA forces to be crushed by the Russians and the Cubans, Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English says on page 6 of its 25 February edition. "South Africa, which has given Dr Savimbi a great deal of logistical support, will welcome America's aid to UNITA" because it is a signal to Luanda "to get rid of the Cubans and sit down at the negotiating table with Dr Savimbi."

Rector Threatens To Close MEDUNSA

The vice-chancellor and rector of the Medical University of South Africa has warned that the university will close down unless the political unrest stops. Students at the black homeland-based campus near Pretoria had recently boycotted classes over plans to admit white students to the facility.

Western Cape By-Elections

Political organizers in the Western Cape say by-elections to fill the vacancies caused by the resignations of Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert and Dr Alex Boraine of the PFP will not be held before May, *THE CITIZEN* reports on page 8. "While the PFP sees Claremont as a 'safe' PFP seat, the National Party is keen to contest Pinelands and believes the seat 'well within a winning margin.' Neither party sees a date earlier than May 20 as a possibility, with a date in June as a more realistic guess."

DIE VADERLAND Welcomes Economic Upsurge

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 24 February says in an editorial on page 8: "A welcome and necessary change of attitude has come about in the economic sphere." Despondency has given way to confidence; the economic barometer promises a steady growth rate of 3 percent. The greatest danger is that the state, commerce, and the individual will succumb to an enormous spending spree, and this must be avoided or a second slump in the economy will be worse than the first.

Opening of Colored Schools Observed

Another editorial on page 8 says "the House of Representatives has exercised its right by opening colored schools to all races." This action shows that the legislative and executive powers of Parliament's three houses are not just theoretical. Observing that colored schools could attract a large number of black children, it says "it is the duty of the House of Representitives to bear full responsibility for the greater demands made on its limited budget."

Mixed Athletics Meeting 'Successful'

An article on page 4 says South Africa's first mixed schools athletics meeting at Stellenbosch was so successful that the idea is to be extended to other areas in the Cape Peninsula and the Boland. "It was the beginning of great things," a colored school principal said.

Durban Bus Desegregation Criticized

Durban *ILANGA* in Zulu on 17-19 February comments in an English editorial on page 4: "While welcoming the decision by the Local Road Transportation Board to desegregate some of Durban's buses, we are not ecstatic about the decision to allow 'mixed' buses only on the black, or what they call the green-line buses." "According to the new arrangement, whites will be free to travel with their fellow black passengers but only on the buses hitherto used exclusively by the blacks. The whites-only buses will still operate on the old basis of discrimination."

ILANGA on Transkei School Restrictions

Durban *ILANGA* in Zulu on 20-22 February, comments on page 6: "There are no attractive features in the decision by the Transkei Government to bar non-Xhosu from admission into Transkei's schools effective 1 January, this year." "It is common knowledge that the Transkei government took this step because it firmly believed the non-Transkeian students were among the ringleaders in the student protests and riots that have plagued the Transkei's schools in recent years," but a blanket measure that affects the innocent along with the offenders, is "wrong and unacceptable."

New Allegations Added to Delmas List

"A number of new and 'serious' allegations have been added to the already lengthy indictment against the 22 accused in the Delmas treason trial," says a report on page 6 of *THE STAR* in English on 26 February. The state has extended the indictments against the defendants, which include leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and Vaal Civic Association and members of the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO), to include "spreading unrest nationwide and introducing averments of two murders, riots and arson. Another of the new allegations is that Mr Patrick 'Terror' Lekota taught people at Tumahole to manufacture and use petrol bombs and that he actively participated in a stoning incident."

Pretoria Unionist Killed in Car Crash

A report on page 9 says a leading Pretoria trade unionist died on Monday when the car in which he and six other unionists were travelling overturned near Steynsburg. The National Automobile and Allied Workers Union described the death of Martin Ndaba, a founder-member of the organisation, as " 'a blow to the growth of the workers' organisation and the struggle for freedom.' "

Inkatha Criticizes Survey Results

Suzanne Griffin, a spokesman for Inkatha, has criticized recent surveys by the Institute of Black Research as being designed to put the Inkatha movement and its leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, "in a poor light," says a report on page 9. The survey said people interviewed preferred jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela over Chief Buthelezi. Griffin accused Professor Fatima Meer and her colleagues at the institute of " 'going out of their way to publish research propounding their views,' " and said Meer was waging an "unfair" and "ceaseless" campaign against Buthelezi and Inkatha.

Police Confirm Presence on PE Beaches

A report on page 9 says police in Port Elizabeth have reaffirmed that SADF troops and policemen were on duty at white beaches during the weekend. Brigadier E. Schnetler, Eastern Cape police division commissioner, said "police were on duty along the beachfront at the weekend to prevent a possible racial confrontation if blacks visited the whites-only beaches." Another police spokesman emphasized that the men were only to act "in the case of any confrontation. He said they were not on duty to prevent blacks going onto the beaches or to summarily arrest any that might have done so."

STAR Slams Seizure of Medical Files

Commenting on the seizure of medical files from the Alexandra clinic in an editorial on page 22, *THE STAR* says: "The use of search warrants quite clearly constitutes harassment of doctors and flies in the face of a code of conduct accepted internationally."

HRSC Study on Housing, Birth Rate

A recent study by the Human Sciences Research Council's Institute of Sociological and Demographic Research shows that "non-formal housing — including squatting — would have to be allowed by the authorities to relieve the urban housing shortage," says a report on page 23. The study said migrants still expected to be better off in the cities, and "no attempts to slow down the rate of urbanisation could succeed if adequate opportunities were not created in the rural areas." Sue Leeman reports on the same page that the study found there was a "substantial decline" in the size of black families in " 'white areas' " with up to 40 percent of the women using birth control methods, as compared to families in black states where only about 16 percent of women use contraception. The researchers wrote: " 'If the majority of South African blacks were to become urbanised and thus forced by the demands of modern metropolitan life to abandon their traditional fertility behaviour and if an effective and dynamic family planning programme were introduced countrywide, the black population growth rate would be reduced drastically.' "

Public Fails To Understand 'Alexandra Disaster'

A speaker at a University of Witwatersrand meeting said most people treated for gunshot wounds at the Alexandra clinic just happened to be " 'standing in the wrong place at the wrong time,' " Jo-Anne Collinge reports on page 23. A doctor associated with Wits Medical School who works at the Alexandra clinic said "the public had failed to 'understand the scale of the disaster' in Alexandra." He added that there was no reason to think that the " 'police and the army are drawing back in any way.' "

Unemployment Hits Record High

On page 2 of the Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 26 February Gerald Reilly reports that unemployed benefits cost the Unemployment Insurance Fund 1 million rand a day last year. Manpower Director-General Piet van der Merwe said in an interview with *BUSINESS DAY* the registered jobless total had "reached a record 127,000 (73,693 in January last year)." Van der Merwe said he hoped the unemployment situation would stabilize this year because of a predicted "positive growth rate" for the economy, but he added that 300,000 new work-seekers come into the labor market every year. Chris Cairncross reports in an accompanying article that Van der Merwe said the 620 million rand allocated last year to finance short-term, job-creating projects has been nearly exhausted. The funding allowed the creation of about 151,000 temporary jobs last year.

School-Age Children on Hunger Strike

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 26 February reports on page 2 that the Detainees' Parents Support Committee (DPSC) says "Children of school-going age are among the emergency detainees on hunger strike in Modderbee Prison." The DPSC said it was bringing the plight of the detainees to the attention of a number of foreign embassies as well as the Red Cross, Amnesty International, and other organizations.

Mamelodi Youth Condemn Apartheid

The Mamelodi Youth Organization (MAYO) issued a statement after its second annual congress rejecting the government's reform politics and warning that the killing of black people " 'is not and will never be a solution to the problems of South Africa,' " the SOWETAN reports on page 3. The statement also said: " 'Apartheid can never be reformed — it must be crushed and buried once and for all.' "

Conservatives Reject Proposed Pay Raise

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 26 February reports on page 1 that the Conservative Party and the Herstigte Nasionale Party [Reformed National Party], have rejected proposals for salary raises of up to 102 percent for members of Parliament "out of hand." The Progressive Federal Party (PFP) said the pay increases should not exceed 10 percent, but the New Republic Party called for the increases to be implemented " 'as soon as possible.' " "National Party politicians stressed yesterday no decision had yet been taken about the big increases."

CITIZEN on 'Insensitivity' of Pay Hike

An editorial on page 6 says: "It is the height of insensitivity to suggest ultra-big pay increases for anyone, least of all parliamentarians, who are blamed, rightly or wrongly, for the state of the country. Indeed, to make fatcats of parliamentarians when everyone else is suffering from economic debility and deprivation is to ask for bitterness and a strong backlash."

Extremism 'Dangerous'

An editorial on page 12 of Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 26 February says "a menacing factor is emerging in South Arica, namely, the actions by the far right against blacks, apparently as a sort of misplaced revenge against violence perpetrated principally by the ANC terrorists." What these people do not realize is that they are doing exactly what the ANC proposes, that is, to keep relations between white and black as hostile as possible. Concluding, it says "extremism is an ugly and self-destroying characteristic, and as General Magnus Malan said in Parliament: it does not matter if it is leftist or rightist, it is still dangerous."

Black Political Future Must Be Addressed

In his political column on page 12, Piet Muller says officials are working feverishly behind the scenes to make prospects for a new South Africa — which President Botha had announced at the opening of Parliament — possible. Noting that 1 July has been set as a date when there should be visible signs of progress, he says: "One of the main visible signs would be replacing influx control with a policy of positive urbanization." He says if South Africa does not want to be suddenly surprised by the consequences of urbanization, important decisions will have to be made from now through 1 July. "But the most important decision will be that of the political future of urban blacks. Without that decision no long term planning can be undertaken."

Paper Reviews Apartheid-Related Matters

MB230558 Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL in English 21-27 Feb 86 p 4

["Apartheid Barometer"]

[Excerpts] *Emergency Detentions February 6 to February 13*

Number of people detained:	18
Number of people released:	69
Number still held:	221
Number held since emergency began:	7782

Last week saw the lowest number of detentions since the emergency was declared on July 21 last year.

Court Applications Involving Alleged Assault and Torture 1985, Partial List

Area	No of Court Actions	No of Applicants
Johannesburg	1	14
Durban	5	6
Cape Town	5	7
Port Elizabeth	2	45
East London	2	7
Grahamstown	1	3
Ciskei	1	1

Deaths in Police Custody 1985

There was one death related to security detention. The death of Andries Raditsela is the subject of an inquest at present. Police have claimed that he had been released into hospital a few hours before his death.

However, there were 12 other deaths in police custody of persons arrested under circumstances appearing to be political.